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Issue No 49
Available from Wednesday,
August 13, 2008

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GOOD LUCK SPITFIRES

As Kent prepare for their first Lord's final in 11 years club captain Rob Key talks about just how important the game is for the county - See sport



WILL CLUB CASH IN ON NAME CHANGE?

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IVOR CHUGS IN: Tenterden welcomes Ivor the Engine. Search 'Ivor'

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JAMIE'S MEDAL QUEST

Great Britain Olympic track cyclist Jamie Staff will begin his quest for a medal on Friday in the team sprint qualifying round at Laoshan velodrome, Beijing.

The Ashford-born cyclist is part of a strong sprint team including Olympic champion Chris Hoy, Ross Edgar and Jason Kenny. Staff, 35, has Commonwealth and World Championship medals to his name and is desperate to add an Olympic award.

The competition begins at 9.30am UK time. For a full report, log on to www.yourashford.co.uk.

EXCLUSIVE

BY CHRIS BRITCHER

BOSSES at the town's football club could be set to ditch years of tradition and clinch a money-spinning naming rights deal for their Homelands stadium, we can exclusively reveal.

It comes as part of Ashford Town's ambitious £8m plans to transform its Kingsnorth home into a thriving "sports village".

While upsetting traditionalists, naming rights deals are becoming an increasingly popular revenue generator for clubs of all sizes.

High-profile examples include the Brit Oval and Arsenal's Emirates Stadium. And, Yourashford can reveal, talks with potentially interested companies are already under way.

All of which is bound to get the crowds speculating as they gather at the Homelands on Saturday to cheer on Steve Lovell's side in their opening fixture of the new season against Walton Casuals.

A club insider, speaking on condition of anonymity, told us: "There is certainly a good chance the redevelopment will take on a title sponsor."

"Several companies have already expressed an interest in taking on the title rights, but we are in no rush to make a decision."

"We will continue to review our plans, although it would be unwise to say for definite if the ground will carry the name of a sponsor."

"As soon as we reach a specific point we will make that decision, but there is every likelihood the ground will carry a new name."

Club officials were unavailable for comment

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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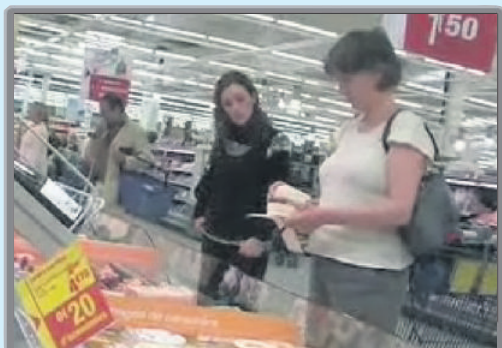
TOP TV CLIPS



1 Not a helicopter, but the new widescreen Astra. Steve Loader explains. See the motors channel @ yourkenttv.co.uk



2 Another chance to see David Pritchard's day training with the Gills. See the sports channel @ yourkenttv.co.uk



3 Can you still bag a bargain in France? Julie Maddocks reports. See the business channel @ yourkenttv.co.uk

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OPEN ROAD: The proposed route is needed to help housing developments south of the town

Way ahead open for cash boost to fund road plans

■ BY NICK AMES

PLANS for a new road to draw traffic away from the centre of the town have received a boost after being shortlisted for Government funding.

The proposals would see Victoria Way built between the Romney Marsh/Beaver Road junction and Brookfield Road.

Linking the A2042 Romney Marsh Road to the A28 Chart Road, it is hoped the road will allow the town's expansion to the south of the borough and alleviate the strain on the road network.

The Ashford's Future partnership – set up to boost the town's prosperity – had submitted an outline bid for a share of the £200 million Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF), set up to fund transport schemes which support housing growth.

Now the partnership has been invited to submit a full bid for the £16 million it is after.

Cllr Paul Clokie, leader of Ashford council and chairman of the Ashford's Future board, said: "For too long Ashford town centre has been constrained within the former ring road. The building of Victoria Way

will add a new strategic route that will enable the town centre to grow and thrive."

Andy Phillips, head of transport for the new Ashford's Future company, which will lead the project, said: "Victoria Way is an important scheme for the town's future growth, both in terms of providing a much-needed transport route to access the railway station and as an alternative to using Elwick Road, but also to enable the redevelopment of derelict land to the south of the railway."

"We are very pleased this has been recognised by the Government and it means we are an important step closer to receiving the funding needed to deliver the scheme."

Housing minister Caroline Flint said: "The schemes shortlisted for the next stage in bidding for £200 million of funding have shown that they can help unlock potential in proposed new developments, as well as provide the transport infrastructure to support growing communities and improve access to town centres and jobs."

A full bid will be submitted in October. Ministers will announce which schemes have been awarded funding in early 2009.

New name for Homelands?

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

when contacted last night. The £8m plans include a bigger stadium, a health complex, indoor tennis courts and a hotel. All of which it is hoped will turn the club into a force to be reckoned with both on and off the field.

An application for planning permission is due to go before Ashford council in the autumn.

Town officially unveiled their plans for the Homelands at the end of June, after Yourashford exclusively revealed the project back in February.

Yourashford is throwing its weight behind the club this season and urges all readers to cheer the side to success as they chase promotion in the Ryman League Division One South.

• Saturday's match at the Homelands kicks off at 3pm. Entry is £8 for adults and £2 for under-16s. Turn to sport for more news from the Homelands.

yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

Chernobyl children at fire station fun day

CHILDREN from Belarus, who live close to the area affected by fallout from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster, visited Ashford fire station on Friday.

The group of nine to eleven-year-olds were treated to a hands-on tour of the station and equipment, as well as playing games with the crew.

The visit is part of a range of activities arranged by the Chernobyl Children Lifeline charity, which allows the children to stay with host families in East Kent.

Tanker breakdown hits rush-hour commuters

TRAFFIC chaos hit the rush-hour along the M20 at junction 10 yesterday morning when a tanker broke down on the slip road.

Vehicles were halted on the coast-bound carriageway as Highways Agency staff closed the motorway so the HGV could be removed.

A police spokesman said: "The breakdown on Tuesday morning happened at a very inconvenient time, with people on their way to work."

"A section of the road was closed and there were delays while action was taken to deal with the tanker."

Do you like Face Painting?

See page 10 for more details



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Revealed - cause of the summer stench

■ BY ED HILL

IT forced many to head indoors and left others feeling queasy. And now we can reveal it was chicken manure which triggered last week's powerful pong.

The source was traced to a farm in Aldington after the whiff wafted down the A20 and across the town.

The stomach-turning smell left tenants at Evegate Business Park kicking up a stink, as did shoppers at the Crooksfoot Tesco store.

And when the wind blew in the wrong direction, it left those closer to the town centre gagging, too.

After receiving complaints, environmental health chiefs met with the owner of Bank Farm who had been spreading the poultry manure on land between the M20 and A2070.

Doug Wanstall, the owner of Bank Farm, told Yourashford: "This is waste our own hens produce and it is very beneficial to farmland.

"We produce 300 tonnes of manure from our poultry operation per year and we spread the whole lot in one afternoon."

Mr Wanstall said normally the chicken muck would be ploughed into the land immediately to reduce the smell, but heavy rains meant the ground was too wet for farm machinery to get onto the land.

He added: "This is a normal agricultural activity. I have spoken to the environmental health office and explained the situation. They are happy as long as I keep them informed."

A council official said: "Mr Wanstall was advised it was essential that he integrate the poultry manure with the soil as soon as possible, which he agreed to do.



PHEW, WHAT A STINKER: Council chiefs received complaints over the smell - caused by chicken manure on a farm

"Many farmers use a variety of material at this time of the year, including paper residue, sewage sludge and poultry manure, since it avoids using chemical fertiliser."

It is not the first time Mr Wanstall's activities have got up the noses of neighbours.

Earlier this year he built a road on land just off Church Lane for a controversial recycling

operation before securing planning permission, which was granted retrospectively. And the recycled materials he ploughs into the land have been criticised by locals who claim it contains waste such as plastic and metal.

But Mr Wanstall insists the Environment Agency has responded to the complaints and has assured him his operation is fine.

Waitrose store wins approval

PLANS for a Waitrose store to be built on the old Templer Barracks site have been approved by Ashford council.

The development will include 23 flats above the supermarket and a two-storey, 221-space car park.

The store is part of a new high street on the 50-hectare Repton Park site that will have more than 1,250 homes when completed.

It is seen as one of the key facilities in an area which will also include shops, a school, doctors' surgery and a community centre.

The supermarket will be the popular chain's first presence in Ashford and will go head-to-head with retail giants Tesco and Sainsbury's.

Cllr John Kemp, portfolio holder for planning and development, said: "We welcome Waitrose to Ashford.

"The store will provide more food shopping choice, especially for those in Repton Park, and highlights Ashford's ability to attract quality retailers to the town."

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your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Learn about Bank Street's new flume. Search 'bank'.

Charity shop staff anger as window is smashed

A LEADING veterinary charity has been left counting the cost after vandals smashed the window of its town centre shop.

Yobs shattered the front window of the PDSA charity shop in New Rents on Friday night.

It means funds raised by the charity will have to be diverted towards paying for repairs rather than helping pets in need of vets.

Manager Corinne Dennison said: "I arrived at the shop on Saturday morning to find the window completely smashed.

"We are all extremely angry that someone could target a charity shop like this."

The Ashford PDSA shop raises funds to provide free veterinary treatment in the area.

Ms Dennison said: "We hope the window will be repaired during the week.

"In the meantime, we are open for business as usual and are urging our supporters to visit the shop, where we have a wide range of bargain items for sale."

Drivers say tanks very much to Invicta FM



LIFE'S A GAS: Lucky winners receive their free fuel from Invicta FM staff



WITH prices soaring the offer of free fuel was too good to miss for a host of motorists who descended on Tesco in Willesborough on Friday.

As part of a stunt staged by radio station Invicta FM, 20 lucky listeners were able to cash in with £25 of free fuel.

The location of the giveaway had been a tightly guarded secret before it was announced live on air, prompting motorists to make a bee-line to the Crooksfoot store.

It was the latest in a series of petrol promotions the radio station has run in recent months across the county. And on hand to dole out the fuel was the station's weekend breakfast presenter, Louis Hurst.

Mr Hurst said: "I have seen the pictures and video of Free Fuel Friday online, but this is the first time I have been at a station to give the petrol away.

"It was amazing, cars were coming from all directions. It was great to be part of something that obviously means so much to the people of Ashford."

The first car arrived at the filling station just three minutes after the location was announced on air.

Further giveaways will take place throughout August and September.

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Soldier driven on by her mum's support

LIKE all parents of soldiers in Afghanistan, Kirsty Hamer's mum Sharon worries about her daughter being in a warzone.

However, she only has herself to blame – as it was her who suggested the idea of joining the Army to Private Hamer, 20, from Stanhope, Ashford.

Almost immediately after joining her unit in January, she was told she would be going to Afghanistan.

"It's exciting because you join the Army to do this," said the driver with the Royal Logistics Corps. "This is the real thing."

After leaving Christ Church school, Pte Hamer was unsure what to do for a career.

"I had a couple of jobs, but I wasn't a very well-behaved teenager so I had to do something."

Her mother saw an advert for a course run by an ex-soldier for youngsters interested in joining the military and persuaded her daughter to go along.

Now, Pte Hamer is a driver at Kandahar airbase in southern Afghanistan and her duties include getting behind the wheel of ambulances.

Scottish family have their base in the city

FOR Andy Scott, as with most of the men of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (5 Scots), his base in Canterbury is a long way from his Scottish homeland.

But Private Scott, 29, from Paisley, said he and his wife, Cheryl, love the cathedral city.

"I like Canterbury," he said. "It's a lovely city. It's scenic and there's quite a lot to do for families."

He has been based there for four-and-a-half years.

When he was last home in June, he and his wife celebrated the birth of their first child, Abbey. Pte Scott, who works in the supplies section at Camp Bastion, the main British base in Helmand Province, said he missed his daughter.

"My dad and wife sent pictures and videos, it's a wee bit hard," he said.

But he is able to speak to his wife every day on the phone and said the battalion organises activities to keep families at home busy.

Pte Scott has been in the Army for six years, serving in Bosnia and Iraq, but said the Afghan tour was probably the toughest.



ON TOUR: British forces are bringing stability to the area through their continued efforts, as explained to Jamie McGinnes by Capt Stevie Rae in the middle picture. Far right is the Sutherland Highlanders on parade before they were sent to Helmand Province in Afghanistan

Jamie McGinnes, the award-winning reporter from our sister paper Kent on Sunday, jetted into Afghanistan last week to get the lowdown on life on the frontline. In a special report filed from the notorious Helmand Province, McGinnes reveals what life is like for the Kent-based troops as they wage war against the Taliban.



WHEN soldiers from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (5 Scots) were sent to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Delhi, in southern Helmand Province, the outlook was bleak.

After travelling from Howe Barracks, Canterbury, in March, around 120 troops went straight into the action at the fortified outpost in Garmser, near the small town of Darvisham.

"When A Company arrived at FOB Delhi,

the frontline was 200m away and they were fighting for the first two months – intense fighting," Captain Stevie Rae, spokesman for 5 Scots, explained. "Now, with the assistance of the Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), the community are back in the town."

The arrival of the 2,000-strong American force was too much for the Taliban to handle.

Capt Rae said: "It wasn't long after 'A' Company arrived that MEU conducted their operation in the south. The Taliban were caught off guard and were clearly overwhelmed with the speed of ISAF (Inter-

Sergeant turns up the heat to acclimatise

JOGGING in temperatures in excess of 50C may seem like madness to Britons used to summers that are half as hot.

But for Sergeant Jamie Wright, 34, from Chatham, it helped him acclimatise to desert conditions in Afghanistan.

And the RAF flight operations manager at Kandahar airbase, who has previously been based in the Falklands, the Gulf and Cyprus, waits until it is hottest.

"The heat's fine – I go running in it," he said. "I have to run at the hottest times of the day to get acclimatised."

Sgt Wright's job is an important – and sensitive – one. He briefs RAF flight crews on

routes they can take and warns them of potential trouble spots.

"The picture changes all the time," he said. "It's a daily cycle of new information."

As well as military personnel and freight, the aircraft he works with often carry dignitaries, visitors include defence secretary Des Browne and Tory leader David Cameron.

Kandahar airbase has previously been under rocket attack by insurgents. No-one has been hit, but they have still caused alarm.

"There are natural worries when you get rocketed, but that's all quietened down now," said Sgt Wright.



Picture: CAPT ANDY WHITEHEAD

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life back to normal

national Security Assistance Force) troops.”
As a result, life for civilians in the area has begun returning to normal.

“Businesses have opened, shops are trading, people are back in their houses and farmers in the fields,” said Capt Rae. “This is something we didn’t expect to see in six months. For us it’s massive progress.”

Around 550 soldiers from 5 Scots were sent to Afghanistan in March. As part of Battle Group North West, they are spread around an area covering 100,000sq miles, where 100,000 people live.

At Now Zad, 60 miles north of the provincial capital Lashkar Gah, 5 Scots have been working with Estonian troops.

In the town of Musa Qala, recaptured from the Taliban in December with the help of Maidstone-based 36 Engineer Regiment, Delta Company have been involved in “surge operations”, hunting out the Taliban. The town, which is also home to the Royal Engineers, Royal Signals and US Marine Corps, has seen rocket and mortar attacks, small arms fire and suicide bombings.

The Argylls’ B Company – about 120 soldiers – are in Lashkar Gah.

FOB Edinburgh, 7km from Musa Qala, is home to more of 5 Scots, as well as Kentish soldiers from the 2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales’ Royal Regiment.

Capt Rae said the isolation of the outpost meant it was formidable to attack: “It’s so far from civilisation that if anyone’s going to attack we can see them for kilometres.”

The main threats to the base, which was only built at the start of this year, are improvised explosive devices, rockets or mortars, but it has not been targeted, said Capt Rae.

The Kent battalion’s tour of Helmand has not been without setbacks, however.

At the end of June, Lance Corporal James “Jimmy” Johnson, 31, who grew up in



Chatham, was killed while part of a vehicle checkpoint patrol in the Lashkar Gar area.

And the battalion’s commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel David Richmond, was shot in the leg during a firefight near Musa Qala. He was the most senior British casualty since the 2001 invasion.

Speaking in March, he said his battalion’s job was to “disrupt” the Taliban: “It is about progress. We’re not going to win the Afghan campaign in our six months.”

The Argylls are due to return to Canterbury in September.



Nurturing the green, green grass of home

TROOPS have turned a small corner of Kandahar airbase into a green haven.

Lance Corporal Ernest Tabi, 29, from Welling, helped create the square of grass, as well as a flag and rockery – the only one of its kind at the desert-locked site in Kandahar Province, southern Afghanistan.

A previous attempt to grow grass donated by Australian soldiers failed, but seeds given by Afghans have taken hold. However, the blades have to be watered every morning to keep them alive.

LCpl Tabi, an administrator with 6 Supply Regiment, said: “It’s the only bit of green we see around here. It’s something nice to look at and reminds us of home.”

Although it is 20km from Kandahar City, the airbase’s isolated setting has not spared it from the insurgents. Recent weeks have been quiet, but there were 40 attacks in two-months at the start of the summer.

Brave private tells of an ‘annoying’ attack

PRIVATE Josh Alder, 19, from Rainham, arrived in Afghanistan in May and in mid-June was called out from Forward Operating Base Edinburgh, near Musa Qala, to help clear Taliban fighters.

Working alongside Afghan National Army soldiers, about 100 US Marines, and supported by troops from 5 Scots, they began their ‘advance to contact’ at about midnight. The mission did not end until 24 hours later.

In the face of a show of force against which they stood no chance, the Taliban retreated north. As the British troops trekked after them, the mood became more tense when intercepted radio chatter revealed the Taliban were preparing an ambush.

“They were saying, ‘the RPGs (rocket-propelled grenade launchers) and AKs are ready for the British’ and that they could see us only 200 metres away,” said Pte Alder, who is in a reconnaissance platoon of the 2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales’ Royal Regiment. However, the sound of gunfire elsewhere revealed the Taliban had mistaken the US Marines for British soldiers.

Pte Alder continued the Americans radioed in an air strike.

That night, Pte Alder and the other soldiers moved into the desert and camped out before returning to base.

During a later mission to search villages near Musa Qala, thought to be harbouring Taliban fighters, soldiers found a bomb-making factory. After paying a family they commandeered their home for the night – and were attacked. The assault began with an RPG exploding over their heads, followed by machine gun fire.

“We’d been working 18 hours solid and we were starting to relax, so it was quite annoying,” said Pte Alder.



He took cover in the family’s prayer room and some of the soldiers were ordered on top of the compound to return fire, backed up by Warrior armoured vehicles.

The battle went on for 45 minutes before artillery was called in.

“That dropped 15 high explosive shells on the village and that was it. That stopped them,” explained Pte Alder.

The former Brompton College pupil joined the Army at the age of 16 two years ago.

“The days are long, you carry a lot of equipment, it stretches you mentally and trying to stay alert all the time is hard,” he said.

While outside their base, soldiers are expected to carry on average about 80lbs of kit, not including their weapons, which themselves can weigh more than 30lbs.

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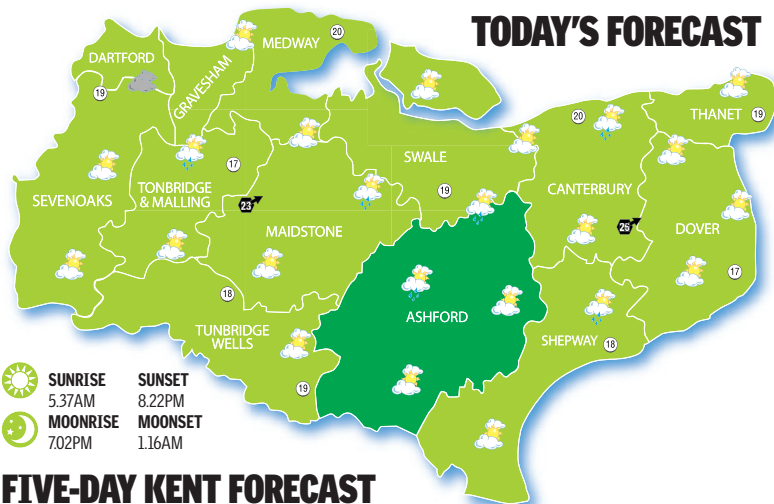
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	Sunday	12:51pm	5.5m
Dover	Saturday	10:36am	5.8m
	Sunday	11:13am	6.1m
Dungeness	Saturday	10:21am	6.4m
	Sunday	11:07am	6.8m
Ramsgate	Saturday	11:06am	4.4m
	Sunday	11:43am	4.6m
Sheerness	Saturday	11:54am	5.0m
	Sunday	12:40pm	5.3m
Whitstable	Saturday	11:53am	4.8m
	Sunday	12:40pm	5.0m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	19°C	Madrid	31°C
Athens	30°C	New York	26°C
Barcelona	30°C	Paris	22°C
Beijing	26°C	Rome	29°C
Bombay	26°C	Sydney	13°C
Cape Town	22°C	Tenerife	26°C
Cardiff	17°C	Tokyo	30°C
Gibraltar	30°C	Vancouver	20°C
Hong Kong	25°C	Warsaw	23°C
Las Palmas	26°C	Wellington	11°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	20°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	20°C	Gravesend	21°C	20°C	20°C	20°C	21°C
Canterbury	20°C	19°C	19°C	18°C	20°C	Maidstone	21°C	20°C	20°C	20°C	21°C
Chatham	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	Ramsgate	20°C	19°C	19°C	18°C	20°C
Dartford	21°C	20°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	Rochester	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C
Dover	18°C	16°C	18°C	17°C	18°C	Sevenoaks	18°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	19°C
Faversham	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	Sittingbourne	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C
Folkestone	18°C	16°C	18°C	17°C	18°C	Tonbridge	20°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	20°C
Gillingham	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	Tun Wells	20°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	20°C

The bungling builders who left residents in the dark

MORE than 1,000 homes in Willesborough found themselves without power last Thursday.

The disruption to the electricity supply was a result of a power cable being cut by builders.

In addition to the homes affected, power was lost at the Civic Centre building in Tannery Lane – home of Ashford's council offices – as well as other local businesses.

A spokesperson for EDF Energy said: "Power was interrupted to 1,240 customers in the Willesborough area at 10.58am on August 7 after a third-party contractor damaged a high voltage underground cable.

"EDF Energy Networks' engineers restored power to 238 customers at 12.30pm by re-routing supplies and worked to restore supplies to the remaining customers as swiftly and as safely as possible."

The company, which is responsible for the supply in the area, restored the power in stages throughout the day, with 1,061 homes having power restored by 4pm. The remaining 179 customers were restored later.

The spokesperson added: "We are committed to providing a reliable supply of electricity and, in a bid to reduce the number of power interruptions caused by contractors damaging underground cables, actively encourage any firm undertaking work to contact us in advance for advice and free cable locating maps, to help them avoid our cables.

"This is vital for their own safety as well as for the security of electricity supplies."

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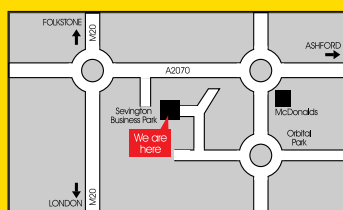
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QUESTION & ANSWER

ANDY GARLAND



Q How did you get into DJ-ing?

A Through an old friend whose dad ran a venue called the Cellar Club in my home town in Devon. Originally they had a jukebox but in 1980 or '81 they brought in a disco and when the club was closed we used to sneak down there and get the lighting rig going and play tunes when no one was around.

Two Tone was really big then and we used to play Madness, The Selecter, The Beat, Bodysnatchers and stuff like that...

Q Do you think you are lucky to be doing what you do?

A Luck certainly played a part but there was also a lot of hard graft too. When I first started I was doing a Saturday sports show on hospital radio.

I also used to do DJ-ing on a Friday night then get up at 7am to do a delivery round for the local butcher, go and do a couple of hours as a lifeguard before driving 35 miles to the hospital to do my afternoon show.

Then I'd drive all the way back home before setting off to my next gig in the evening. I'd get back from that at about 3am absolutely shattered ready to do an early lifeguard shift the next day. I'd then drive 40 miles down to BBC Radio Devon to take part in their youth show, all unpaid of course, before getting home at about 2am the next day... everyone knew not to call me on a Monday morning!

Having said that it's a buzz when the red light comes on, and don't let anyone tell you

talking and playing music for a living is a bad job – they'd be fibbing. Mind you my mum still thinks I'm going to get a proper job one day!

Q What would you be doing with your life if not this?

A I'd probably just be finishing a glorious professional football career with Manchester United and England, and be considering a move into management.

Q Where do you see yourself in five years time?

A Happy, most importantly, and living in Kent with my family. From a work point of view we're encouraged to learn new skills at the BBC, so perhaps there's a chance to do some camera work for TV.

Q Do you have any favourite parts of Kent?

A I was a student in Canterbury so I'll always have a soft spot for the cathedral city and in particular the New Inn on Havelock Street. Joss Bay on the coast is gorgeous, I can easily while away the hours browsing in Baggins bookshop in Rochester and finally I think Chartwell just outside Westerham has a very special atmosphere.

Q How much preparation goes into an average show?

A There's an old rule in radio that suggests for every minute you're on the air you should spend two minutes preparing... it's not

a bad bit of advice. On the Big Drive Home I'm in at 11am and on air at 4pm, and very often could do with another hour or two! There's even more preparation for an outside broadcast or special event.

Q What is your greatest achievement?

A From a work point of view, I think getting my masters degree in media management while holding down a full time presenting job took a great deal of discipline and endeavour. Although I'm glad I did it I wouldn't want to do it again – and if you're thinking of doing something similar you need very understanding friends and family.

Q What are your hobbies and interests?

A Surfing is up there at number one, although I don't have much chance to get in the water these days I really enjoy it when I do... when there's six feet of water bearing down on you, it focuses the mind quite quickly. I'm still attempting to play football at my ripe old age, and you can find me driving and tinkering with my Morris Minor (Just until I get my Jensen interceptor). To relax I get down on my allotment and waste time nattering to people when I should be digging or weeding.

Q What five words sum you up?

A Creative, enthusiastic, passionate, pragmatic and green-fingered!

The BBC Radio Kent DJ talks to **Tom Betts** about his luck and hard work securing such a job on the airwaves, his mum's hopes for his career, and why surfing the waves is his perfect way to unwind.

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A Napoleonic re-enactment on Ramsgate's Government Acre by Connaught Rangers. Search 'Connaught'



Relive the sights and sounds of this year's fun-packed Maidstone River Festival. Search 'river'



What happened when the country's largest collection of shire horses came to town. Search 'shire'



Hundreds made a splash as they took to the seas for the Folkestone Festival raft race. Search 'raft'



Local band Purity joined the star-studded line-up at Quex Park last month - see them perform. Search 'quex'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

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Farmland bucking market downturn

BY ED HILL

HOUSE prices may be crumbling due to the credit crunch, but farmland prices are digging their heels in and remaining buoyant.

And that will provide some good news for those making a living off the land as prices for good quality areas show no sign of slowing.

According to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, farmland in the South East jumped by 24 per cent in the first half of this year.

The price of good quality arable land is fetching around £14,500 per hectare. It was previously going for around £10,000 and pasture is being sold at about £9,000.

The steep rise in price of productive farm land is due to the rise of commodities such as wheat and sugar. Farmland is now an attractive investment for major corporations, particularly as demand for food grows ever stronger from countries such as India and China.

Trevor Hines from the RICS said: "Ever-rising commodity prices have pushed the price of farmland to record highs as farmers and investors compete for arable land."

However, the demand for land from big investors is making it tougher for smaller farms to survive.

The number of farms sales has increased by 50 per cent according to the rural market survey carried out by the institute.

The uncertain future of agriculture has also meant a marked drop in so-called lifestyle buyers looking to leave the city to enjoy a rural way of life.

Mr Hines added: "However, the days of the lifestyle buyer are on the wane. The rise of the credit crunch is putting an end to city expansion into the country as the precarious financial situation has made city slickers re-think their lifestyle priorities."

Richard Thomas from the Chartered surveyors Humberts in Challock said: "We predicted residential farm prices stabilising in our figures last December. This appeared to be correct. Amenity and residential buyers are on the back foot after the credit crunch for all but the most competitively priced units. Bare land is holding up but farmers are rattled by the huge jump in input costs."



GROWING CONCERN: Farmland for sale near the village of Wye could now get a better price



POWWOW: Join the 'Native Americans' at their teepees

Smoke signals point to a good time at Rare Breeds Centre

A TRIBE of would-be Native Americans will be descending on the Rare Breeds Centre in Woodchurch over the weekend for their summer get together.

The powwow will attract almost 100 of the people who have decided to adopt the culture of the Native Americans. They will be pitching their hand-made teepees in the main paddock on the farm.

They will invite visitors to join in their dancing and celebrations and get involved in some of the craft activities and storytelling.

Nigel Collins from the centre said: "These folk are amazing."

"They live their lives as much as possible in the ways of the Native American; sharing their values, respect for the earth and its people and when possible living in their teepees and tents."

"We're always keen to have unusual and different things going on here for our visitors to enjoy and we hope to make the powwow a regular part of our summer calendar."

Entry for the powwow weekend is £8 a person and under threes are free.

For more info call 01233 861493 or visit www.rarebreeds.org.uk.



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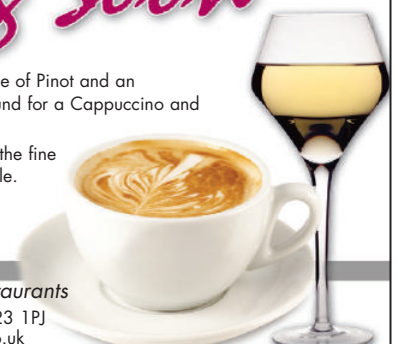
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Casual but smart way to combat hospital germs

DOCTORS in hospitals across Kent have been told to ditch traditional long-sleeved white coats, shirts and ties for a dress code designed to help infection control.

The new rules have sparked controversy among the county's consultants, with some questioning the scientific evidence behind the move.

There are also concerns that some patients may think they have gone through their hospital stay without seeing a "proper" doctor.

Conventional garb of tailored suits, long sleeved-shirts and turnover cuffs, ties bearing university, medical school or Royal College insignia, wristwatches and a pen in the top pocket of the jacket is now banned and could constitute a disciplinary offence in some hospitals.

"Bare below the elbows" is now in vogue, including no watch, so hands can be properly washed.

Doctors have also been told not to wear ties, because they are rarely washed and have been shown to harbour germs, although bowties are allowed under the NHS-wide directive from the Department of Health.

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Trust began enforcing the new uniform policy in July.

■ BY JENNA PUDELEK

Dr John Sewell, a consultant physician at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, said it was important for the public to be made aware of the change and that it was being introduced to highlight the NHS's commitment to tackling infections and improving hygiene standards.

"Patients may be disconcerted when they see an open neck and short sleeves and may think it is very casual or even disrespectful," he said.

"There have been some expressions of concern from staff but people are largely complying."

"It is useful to highlight the fact that consultants are changing what they wear so people know it is not dressing down, it is part of infection control practice."

"Some may disagree, but the general feeling is that it reminds everyone to wash their hands."

He said in some specialties consultants feel it could be seen as disrespectful to impart bad or upsetting news to patients and loved ones while so casually dressed. Dr Sewell welcomed KOS Media's successful hand



hygiene campaign, which has emphasised the need for patients and visitors to wash their hands with soap and water and alcohol in hospitals and other healthcare centres around the county.

The award-winning publisher has been working with the NHS in Kent to raise awareness about superbugs such as Clostridium difficile and MRSA, how they are spread and how basic hygiene helps infection control and prevention.

An alternative to the new dress code could be that all staff wear scrubs as they do in most other European countries. Perhaps in different colours to identify doctors' specialties, it has been suggested.

Dr Sewell said: "Most hospitals have so few changing rooms there would be a queue to get in and out, so it is just not practical and the laundries are not geared up for it yet."

"I think eventually we will be doing that in this country, but it will take some time."

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust and Medway NHS Foundation Trust confirmed that the new dress code was in force across their hospitals.

How KCC lost £1 million by agreeing to burn rubbish

A DECISION made a decade ago by Kent County Council is costing the authority almost £1 million a year profit, a council chief admitted this week.

By signing an agreement in the mid-nineties to burn waste, the council has missed out on the profits from recycling.

"Green gold" has become an important source of revenue for councils recently with cash for such things as cardboard, newspapers and plastic bottles able to be used to fund public services.

The decision to take on a contract with an incinerator means KCC has missed out on much of this potential windfall.

The soaring price of recycled materials has risen so sharply that less than halfway into a 25 year deal with a private company specialising in incineration KCC is trying to renegotiate.

"At the time it looked a good deal," said Keith Ferrin the council's cabinet member for environmental and waste services.

'Never again'

"Ten years later I would say never again. If I could get out of the long term contract I have inherited I would do that."

"Over the course of a year we could make just under £1 million profit."

The agreement reached was for a private contractor to incinerate 320,000 tonnes of waste annually.

The agreement was reached before the incinerator had even been built so it had to be for 25 years.

But few forecast the huge growth in the re-use of material that had been classed as rubbish in the mid-nineties.

Now much of the rubbish is too valuable to burn and much of the plastic the council formerly had removed is now requested by companies in exchange for cash.

Serious price increases in such substances as copper - 15 times more valuable than it was six years ago - have helped spur on the recycling boom which has become more important to businesses than simply saving the planet.

Paul Bettison chairman of the Local Government Association's environmental board wants local councils to be made aware they could be wasting potentially huge profits.

"We need to get the message to our authorities and say 'let's see what we can get out of this without taking silly risks.'"

Farmers are waiting to whet London's appetite

A BID to get more food produced by the county's farmers onto the dinner tables of London has been launched.

Damian Collins, the Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate for Folkestone and Hythe, is spearheading the move.

He is calling on advisors to London Mayor Boris Johnson and his recently appointed Chairwoman of London Food, Rosie Boycott, to recommend local

produce. A meeting was held at a farm in Aldington, near Ashford, last week to highlight the move which is part of the London Food Strategy - a proposal launched by former mayor Ken Livingstone to help farmers.

It calls for country products to be on sale in greater amounts at the capital's wholesale markets - which are mainly patronised by restaurants.

Mr Collins contacted the London Assembly member for

Bexley and Bromley, James Cleverly, who also attended the meeting.

Mr Collins said: "London has always been a big market for Kent food, but I would like to see more help for local producers in London. And more local food available in the hospitals and canteens of government offices - even in city hall."

"Mr Cleverly has an important position within the government of London and we want to impress

upon him how supplying more top quality, fresh Kent food into London will be good for our farmers, and good for London customers as well."

"Many local farmers were interested in Ken Livingstone's original proposal to create a London Food Strategy, but frustrated that little was done to make it easier for farmers and producers in the counties around London to sell their food into the capital - one of the stated aims of the strategy."

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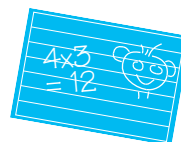
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CASE STUDY: LAST-MINUTE APPLICATION

LUCY Hall, who has just completed the first year of her creative events course at the University of Kent, had to apply to study through clearing after making a late decision to study for a degree.

She said she felt the UCAS website was helpful and told her what she needed to do and how to complete an application.

The 19-year-old said: "I believe Kent saw my potential, even though my A-levels



were slightly lower than expected."

"If you don't get the grades, or if you decide to apply last-minute, you can still succeed," she added.

"Everyone I spoke to during clearing was helpful and efficient."

"It wasn't stressful at all. But I would recommend being well prepared for the day clearing starts (on Thursday), and being persistent does you no harm either."

University's just a phone call away

TOMORROW is make or break day for 18-year-olds with the release of the A-level results.

Many students will automatically have secured a place at their university of choice – but for some their results will not be as expected and they face the prospect of clearing to get their uni place.

The advice is simple: DON'T PANIC. But be prepared to make the call within hours of learning your results. Popular courses can fill up in one day, but preparation is the key.

John Slater, Canterbury Christ Church University's director of admissions, said: "If your exam results are not quite what you expected, do not worry, but you do need to plan your strategy."

"Check with your 'firm' choice to see if they have accepted you. Sometimes you will find they lower the number of points asked for and will still accept you."

"If they are not prepared to do this, you need to check whether your insurance offer has been confirmed. If not, you need to enter the clearing process."

He said students should make a note of the courses they are interested in and start contacting the universities about them.

"Have your UCAS application number, clearing entry number and a list of your grades to hand when you telephone the university," he added.

Lecturers and students at the University of Greenwich at Medway's clearing centre were expecting a record number of calls from school and college leavers this year.

People changing their careers and mature students who want to start a degree in the new academic year also end up going through the process, the university said.

Specially trained students, including those who went through clearing, work on clearing hotlines at universities across the country.

Jessica Lewis, who set up the University of

■ BY JENNA PUDELEK

Greenwich at Medway's clearing centre, said: "Our aim is to give the vast majority of applicants a decision or offer during the course of their first phone call to us."

Beverley Woodhams, from the university, said she has matched hundreds of students to courses through clearing when their grades have been lower than they expected.

She told students not to be stressed because there are far more places to study than there are students, she said:

"Remember, it's a buyers' market and you hold the currency."

Each year 30,000 people gain a place during clearing, which closes on Friday, September 12. UCAS said vacancies on its website will be updated continually throughout the period.

At Hadlow College Neil Lakeland said students should not give up

their dreams and there are plenty of career opportunities for those who take the time to look.

He said: "Entry onto our foundation degrees starts at just 80 UCAS points, with honours degrees from 160 UCAS points. This means people can still get a good degree in a land-based field and ultimately achieve a good career. Even if you can't get your first choice, I'd advise students to take a careful look – they will be surprised at the range."

Steve Holdcroft, Canterbury's head of information, recruitment and admissions, offered further advice, including being flexible when looking at courses and picking one that is related to subjects chosen at school. He warned that places on popular courses are filled by mid-morning on results day and advised students not to delay calling.

Admissions officers are also more likely to be impressed by students who have thought about what they want and prepared questions to ask, he added.

If you don't get the grades, or if you decide to apply last-minute, you can still succeed

Lucy Hall, first-year creative arts student

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CLEARING HOTLINES AND WEBSITES

University of Greenwich at Medway: 0800 005 006 and www.gre.ac.uk

University of Greenwich Guide to Clearing is available online – see inside last Sunday's Kent on Sunday e-edition at www.kentnews.co.uk

The UCAS helpline is on 0871 468 0468 or visit www.ucas.com for course vacancy listings

Hadlow College: Main information line 0500 551434 www.hadlow.ac.uk

University of Kent: www.kent.ac.uk/clearing

Canterbury Christ Church University: www.canterbury.ac.uk/courses/clearing

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yourashfordblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in the district of Ashford...



The big selection problem: Do you go local or for glory?

IT may not seem long since the last one finished, but the Premiership season kicks-off again this weekend.

However, living and growing up in Kent doesn't give you much opportunity to have seen top-flight football.

Gillingham has been – with the brief exception of Maidstone United's rise and fall – the only county club in the Football League. Back in the days when Grandstand's results service was the only way to find out the football scores, Gillingham were always lurking at the foot of the pyramid.

Of course, in recent years they enjoyed a bit of genuine success and rose to the heady heights of the Championship – a mere stone's throw from the Premiership.

Yet, normal service has been resumed with last year's relegation, dumping them back into the bottom division, a stone's throw from the world of non-league football.

I recently watched some footage of the team in pre-season training. It seemed to mainly consist of jumping over croquet hoops and run-

ning in and out of pretty coloured sticks. I can't help feeling if they spent a bit more time just playing football they might actually manage to get promoted this season.

It can be hard as a kid to know which team to give your allegiance, especially if there is no family history of supporting a club. I used to be a Liverpool supporter, like pretty well everyone else in my primary school class at the time. It was mainly because they were winning everything. In the same way as most Manchester United supporters do today.

The irony was that I went to school with a big red Man United bag. My mum thought it was the right size and it was the only one they had left in the shop. I had to constantly explain the situation to confused playground adversaries which just made matters worse.

I always felt a fraud. I thought I should be supporting Gillingham because they were the closest club but let's be honest, they are rubbish. No team like that is ever going to inspire a young child to support it. The only ones that do are forced to by their parents and later on in life end up sad individuals slogging up and

down the motorway following their lower division heroes, with nothing else to fill their lives.

An old friend of mine is a mad Bury FC fan. When I say mad, I don't just mean quirky. He is clinically obsessive and has alienated himself from the rest of the world; forever trapped in a lower division nightmare.

You could be the worst type of supporter (the floater). Another friend of mine is the example of this breed. He comes from Bolton, but never used to support Wanderers because they were not much better than the Gills. Sheffield Wednesday were his team, because, he said, of some tenuous family connection (and they were in the Premiership). But then he switched to Bolton when they suddenly improved. The biggest irony is that he is now a committed Gills supporter because he married a girl from the town and her dad started taking him to home games. And now he spends more time at Priestfield than I ever have. Real love perhaps?

EDITOR'S NOTE: All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Chris Britcher**, on 01303 817171 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourashford.co.uk.

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finest garage, bassline and funky house floorfillers around from the likes of the mighty Simbad, Wookie, Steelo, Wideboys and Dexplicit.

With the biggest anthems, newest and classic hits across three awesome genres, Massive Weekend is one collection we've all been waiting for.

We have five copies of the Massive Weekend collection to give away. To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Massive Weekend, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. The closing date is August 20.

Question: How many CDs are there in the Massive Weekend compilation?

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



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TALK TIME

JEANETTE HENDERSON

The co-owner of Wye News, in Church Street, Wye, discusses her business and gives us her views on the village



How long have you been at the shop?

We have been here seven years but are just about to retire. My husband is 75. We've sold the business and will be handing the shop over to new owners.

I love the job, if it was not for my husband's age, I would not be going. I enjoy the contact with people on the other side of the counter, that's what keeps you going.

We will retire, but I might buy another little shop without the papers - but don't tell my husband!

Newspapers are a big commitment because it is seven days a week. We only have Christmas Day off. We once took Boxing Day off and someone complained they had not been able to get their paper.

How did you arrive in Wye?

The shop is very much part of the community and we feel we are the hub of the village. We wanted to be somewhere that was not in town. As soon as we saw the shop, we knew this was the one.

I have always lived in Kent when we have been in the UK. I spent 12 years in Dallas, Texas, when I was younger. I started as an au pair but then began working in the college system. I was a librarian and then moved into what is called media resources. That was fun. I still have many friends there, but in the end family brings you back.

What do you think about your time at the shop?

We have tried to do our best, be involved and help people. I think that is the key to success for any small shop in a village. You do have to go out of your way.

Service is the key, but I love helping people anyway. Wye has a very strong community. People do come in and say if they have noticed that someone has not been seen for a few days.

YOUR LETTERS



Supermarket will be good for town

I for one am delighted that it looks as if another supermarket is coming to town (Decision due on Waitrose store, Yourashford, August 6).

Amid all the expansion going on, we have been crying out for another major player to step in.

It will be good for the town and if it promotes healthy competition, so much the better.

H Trotter,
by email

More traffic is the last thing we need

Do we really need yet another supermarket?

This town is already being choked by traffic, and now there will be another venue drawing big crowds, day after day.

There's already a Waitrose in Hythe which is only a 15-minute drive away. Why do we need one too?

G Taylor
Brabourne Lees

Viable solution for lorry access road

Can anyone tell me why the proposed lorry park should be



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

Not only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourashford.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article.

To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourashford.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Ashford and Tenterden as well as our villages.

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In addition, if you find your newspaper, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourashford before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

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between Aldington and Sellindge when, on the A20, just after the tunnels, there is

already a viable access road to the B2011, and return access to the A20? This is surely better

than having to build a new access road. Fewer buildings would be affected. This, perhaps with gantry signs on the motorways advising of closures at the docks, could be a better solution.

O McGregor,
Aldington



Our golden girl Lisa is already a winner

I would like to send my very best wishes to Lisa Dobrisky as she looks to challenge for glory in the Olympics in Beijing.

I have followed her career with great interest over the years as a local athlete and to see her representing our nation in the Olympic Games is truly memorable.

Mrs G Burrows,
Kingsnorth

Fascinating insight of Olympics blog

She may be a long shot for a medal, but the fact Lisa Dobrisky is competing in the Olympic Games will make the whole event far more fascinating. I hope she performs to the best of her ability and look forward to reading her diary entries on your website.

Kay Butcher,
by email

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Delight as Brussels sprouts once again

But marketing is crucial for future campaigns



Did we really miss it?

There is no doubt it is good news the Eurostar service to Brussels has returned to Ashford (Delight as Brussels sprouts once again, Yourashford, August 6).

But, in reality, what does it really mean for us, the people who live in the town?

I don't know anyone who uses the Brussels service, nor anyone who was disappointed when it was stopped.

What's more, I couldn't quite understand how it was bad for Ashford when it stopped. It's not like we were suddenly faced with missing out on thousands of Belgian tourists, was it?

I'm pleased for the town's reputation and am glad it's back, but what had we really missed?

Geoff Arnold,
by email

A commonsense victory

Thank goodness commonsense has prevailed. Ashford's battle to have the Brussels Eurostar service resumed was hard-fought, but how pleasing to see it has been successful.

I echo the sentiments of those who say it needs to be properly marketed to remain on the timetable. Otherwise I fear if we lose it again, we will lose it for good.

G Patel,
Ashford

Back on the railway map

Congratulations to all those involved in getting the Eurostar services resumed.

It just goes to show that despite all the odds, people power does make a difference.

Fingers crossed that services to Paris return to their former levels too, so we are proud once again of having an international station with the services to keep Ashford firmly on the map.

Dave Howard,
by email

Cutting cancer risks

A survey by World Cancer Research Fund has revealed that many people are still unaware how they can reduce their cancer risk.

There is convincing evidence that we can reduce our risk by eating healthily, being active and maintaining a healthy weight.

Scientists estimate about a third of cancers could be prevented by following WCRF's recommendations.

You can make choices today that can have long-term health benefits, as the recommendations that reduce your risk of cancer can also help prevent other diseases.

To find out more about our recommendations for cancer prevention, visit our website at www.wcrf-uk.org/recommendations.

Lisa Cooney,
World Cancer Research Fund

Bled dry by money men

Even good things in life pass, but bad times for taxpayers seem never ending.

The simple formula for "sustainability" may well be "thrift", a word unknown to parliamentarians except when applied to us. We are top of the pile to be plundered but bottom once Government and privatised utilities, cartels and monopolies have bled us dry. There is no limit to man's

inhumanity as we can see across the globe, or our capacity to deceive ourselves that all will be well if we keep spending and consuming.

This morning a passer-by said hello. She is a theatre student who was off to the climate camp at Kingsnorth power station.

I depend on her and her ilk to fly the flag about saving our planet. She told me she loved my semi-wild bee and butterfly garden, sandwiched between concrete and paved-over drives. Beauty really is in the eye of the beholder, but is there anyone to save us from institutional pickpockets?

R Grootendorst,
by email

Join Martin for a coffee

What are you doing on September 26? Well, how about joining me in Macmillan Cancer Support's World's Biggest Coffee Morning?

It's a simple, fun and effective way to raise money for people affected by cancer.

Just get together with friends, family or work colleagues, add the drink of your choice and maybe something tasty on the side, and you've joined the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. Like so many of us, my family knows first-hand the devastating impact a



cancer diagnosis can have and the difference having help and support can make. The money you raise will help Macmillan fund more specialist nurses and health and social care professionals, build more cancer centres, improve access to cancer information and provide more financial support to people living with cancer. To get involved next month, call the hotline (0845 602 1246) or register online at www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee.

So join me by putting the kettle on, stocking up on cakes and biscuits and help really make a difference to people living with cancer.

Martin Clunes,
by email

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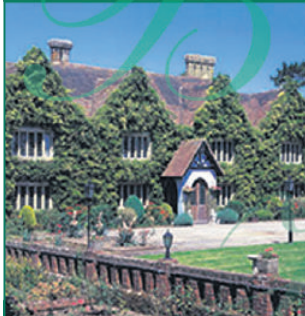
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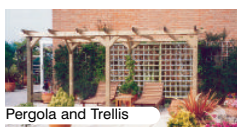


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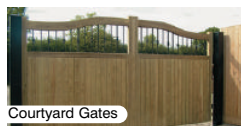


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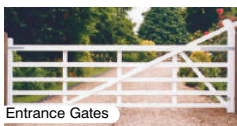


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Picture: WWW.MANILOW.COM

INSPIRATION: Barry Manilow's popular songs form the basis for the new musical Can't Smile Without You, starring Chesney Hawkes

Barry is the one and only

Chesney Hawkes performs in Manilow tribute

KENT theatregoers will witness the world premiere of new Barry Manilow musical Can't Smile Without You.

Former pop star Chesney Hawkes plays the lead role in the show, which celebrates the timeless songs that have made Manilow such a well-loved performer all over the world. Featuring some of his most popular tracks, including Mandy, It's a Miracle, Could It Be Magic and the Grammy Award-winning Copacabana, it should be an unmissable treat for any fan.

The hits are strung along a storyline about a young band in search of fame, who are offered the chance to audition for the latest reality TV show. Lead singer Tony (Hawkes) is given the opportunity of a lifetime when he is asked to appear on the show, but a tragic accident ruins his plans. Tony is left with no memory, just his love of music and his feelings for a girl he once knew called Mandy – with the help of these lifelines, can he get his life back on track?

Following his starring role in the 1991 film Buddy's Song, Hawkes released soundtrack song The One and Only, which became the 20th most successful single of the 90s. He has since become a songwriter and is in demand as a performer on the university circuit, as well as appearing on Channel 4's reality show The Games and ITV's Hit Me Baby One More Time.



Picture: REX FEATURES

his 13th birthday.

The boy went on to perform locally before enrolling at the New York College of Music and The Juilliard School under his mother's maiden name Manilow, Edna having legally changed both their surnames by this point.

His 1964 marriage to childhood sweetheart Susan Diexler foundered two years later under the strain of his musical ambitions. Manilow was working as a commercial jingles writer and singer well into the 70s, including campaigns for Bowlene Toilet Cleaner, Kentucky Fried Chicken and McDonalds.

His association with singer Bette Midler began in 1970 and his debut self-titled album was released in 1973. Since then he has sold more than 76 million records worldwide and has been named the Number One Adult Contemporary Artist by industry newspaper Radio & Records. He has been the headline act at the Las Vegas Hilton since 2005, continuing to entertain fans from all over the world.

Tickets for Can't Smile Without You are priced from £21 to £33. To book call 0870 060 6620 or visit www.churchilltheatre.co.uk.

The show will also be at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, from September 8 to 13.

CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU

Thursday to Saturday,
August 28-September 6
The Churchill Theatre, Bromley



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BLUESCAMP

Friday to Sunday,
August 22-24
The Performing Arts Centre,
Cranbrook

MUSICIANS of all ages and abilities are invited to enjoy their playing in a fun atmosphere at Bluescamp this summer.

Bluescamp offers three days of blues, rock and jazz playing, giving musicians the

opportunity for personal musical development, to play in a band and to learn from some of the best music teachers in the business.

It will be a great opportunity for anyone who used to be in a band and wants to have another go, young players who want to improve or anyone who would like to get up on stage and be part of a band.

Bluescamp is open to singers, guitarists, bass play-

ers, drummers and keyboard players of all standards and is arranged around a series of workshops, combined with jam sessions and time devoted to songwriting.

Prices start at £147 for one day's attendance, going up to £447 for the full three days and places are limited.

Find out more at www.bluescamp.co.uk or by calling Vic Hyland on 07976 405561 or Josh Jewsbury on 01580 720525.

FACE YOUR FEARS

Sunday, August 17
Port Lympne Wild Animal Park,
near Hythe

FACE your fears and meet some of the most chilling creepy crawlies at Port Lympne this weekend.

The mansion will welcome an array of special guests including snakes, spiders, lizards and even scorpions – all waiting to meet the park's visitors.

Children and adults alike are invited to handle these fascinating creatures and learn more about them, in the hope of banishing phobias and quashing fears.

Test your bravery by allowing a python or boa constrictor to wrap itself around your neck, or demonstrate your steely nature by letting a tarantula walk across your hand. The event is certainly not for the faint-hearted, but there will be experts on hand



to answer questions and help visitors to overcome their worries.

At previous Face Your Fears sessions, visitors have met 15ft python Monty, a 2ft Ackie Monitor and some rare scorpions.

The exciting event will be held in the mansion's Long Room from 11am to 5pm and is free to anyone who has bought a ticket for the park that day.

Call 01303 264647 or see www.totallywild.net.

MONSTER MANIA

Saturday and Sunday,
August 16-17
The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood

POP heartthrob Shane Lynch will be making a guest appearance at Monster Mania on Sunday.

One lucky fan will win the chance to have lunch with the Boyzone star, which might be just as exciting as the high octane action in the arena.

American monster truck racing offers an adrenaline-fuelled day out that will keep all the family entertained, as the metallic stars crunch, crush and roar their way through the heats in the hope of winning the European Championship title.

There will be the chance to see cars getting crushed beneath the wheels of five-tonne super machines, while a motorbike stunt team will add to the thrills.

For the best view, arena seats must be booked in advance.

There will a chance to meet



the drivers and their machines at the VIP pit party from 10am to 11am, which costs an extra £5.

Tickets on the gate are from £15 for adults, £11 for

children and £56 for families. Discounted advance tickets are available at www.thehopfarm.co.uk. Book in advance to receive a free Monster Mania Yearbook.

ASHFORD LEISURE

Take your little ones on a natural exploration

CHILDREN are invited to discover the woodlands and learn how to make music from nature on Wednesday, August 20.

Artist Martin Brockman will help youngsters to find out more about the woodland habitat and create their own musical instrument. The free event is suitable for accompanied children aged five and above and will run from 2-4pm.

To book, call 01233 813307 or email kentishstour@kent.gov.uk. For details of all Ashford Green Corridor events visit www.ashfordgreencorridor.org.uk.

New walks are a sure way to healthier living

PUT your best foot forward and take part in a trial session of a new SureStart Fun Health Walk tomorrow.

The Health Walks have been so successful that a route for parents, prams and buggies is being trialled with a view to becoming a regular event. Walkers can enjoy a brisk walk with the chance to enjoy the beauty of local nature.

Arrive at New Hayesbank Surgery in Cemetery Lane, Kennington, at 9.30am. For details call 01233 622030 or email lee.robinson@kent.gov.uk.

Trio create a relaxing atmosphere with song

ACOUSTIC guitar music will be on offer when Three's Company performs in Ashford on Saturday.

The trio put their own twist on modern and classic rock covers, creating a relaxing and intimate atmosphere while staying true to the original songs. They will be at The Star in East Hill, at 9.15pm.

For more details about the gig or the venue, call The Star on 01233 620391.

You'd be mental to miss this diverse mix of music

MENTAL Floss covers hits by a range of artists, from The Jam and Small Faces to The Kooks and Foo Fighters.

The three-piece band plays songs from the 50s to the present day and can be seen live at the Hoods on the Hill in Silverhill Road, Willesborough, on Sunday.

Find out more about them at www.mentalfloss.moonfruit.com. Call the pub on 01233 662226 for gig details.

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yourashfordmusic

Back for another pop at orchestral manoeuvres

■ BY JANE CONNOLLY

NEARLY 40 years ago, a successful rocker began to experiment with a little side project in classically influenced pop.

The musician was Roy Wood and the project was to become one of the world's most successful bands. Once he had recruited the talents of The Idle Race's frontman, Jeff Lynne, the new group began to create rock songs that featured violins, cellos, horns and woodwind to give them classical overtones.

Lynne wrote a song that was intended to be a B-side for The Move, Wood added multiple cellos and it became the Electric Light Orchestra's first song, 10538 Overture.

While still releasing The Move records, Wood and Lynne worked on ELO recordings and in 1971 the band's debut album was finally released.

But early disagreements led to Wood leaving to form Wizzard, taking two members of the band with him. Lynne was to drive the direction of ELO for most of its first incarnation and by the mid-1970s it had become one of the industry's biggest-selling bands.

Violinist Mik Kaminski joined ELO in 1973 and played with them for six years. He later performed with ELO Part II and is now touring with The Orchestra, which also features former ELO members Louis Clark and Kelly Groucutt, and ELO Part II's Eric Troyer, Phil Bates and Gordon Townsend. What's more, the band will play a number of Kent venues later this year as part of a UK tour.

ELO achieved huge success in the US before



HEAD START: Mik Kaminski (top left) and The Orchestra will play three Kent venues during their autumn UK tour

gaining the same recognition in the UK. Kaminski, 56, believes it was the entertaining nature of the performances that got American music fans on board.

"It was almost the curiosity factor of seeing two cellists and a violinist wandering around the stage, trying to endanger life," he said. "They found it quite amusing."

It was their sixth album that really made a commercial impact in the UK and ELO's popularity rocketed in their home country, with platinum-selling albums spawning huge hits such as Mr Blue Sky, Wild West Hero and Sweet Talkin' Woman. ELO disbanded in 1988 when

Lynne refused to make a new album, but it was not the end of the story. Former members put together ELO Part II and OrKestra while Lynne made a comeback with a new album in 2001, recorded with just one other returning ELO member, Richard Tandy.

When Bev Bevan disbanded ELO Part II in 2000, the remaining members continued as The Orchestra and are still delighting fans with their live shows.

The Orchestra will be at the Orchard Theatre in Dartford on October 11, Margate Winter Gardens on October 12, and the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on October 24.

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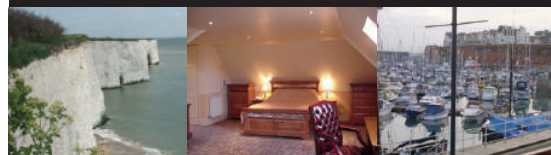
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ASHFORD SHOPPING

Extend yourself to an even longer set of locks

HAIR extensions have hit the high street, allowing women to create the lengthy look with the new BaByliss kit.

Styleable Extensions are made from synthetic fibre hair, eliminating the ethical issues about where human hair comes from. They simply clip into hair, making them easy to remove, and can be styled using heated curlers and straighteners up to a temperature of 180 degrees centigrade.

BaByliss Styleable Clip-In Extensions, priced £30, are available from Boots.

Miniature bottle smells like a very good deal

IF packing light is leaving you short of beauty products on holiday, Sanex could have the answer.

The company's Excel Invisible anti-perspirant (£2.29 for 75ml) is half the size of a standard 150ml aerosol, but uses less gas so it lasts just as long. The gentle anti-perspirant is also designed to reduce white marks.

It is available from most supermarkets and pharmacies.

Pick up a bag for life, you know it makes scents

THE Perfume Shop has become the latest retailer to launch its own bag for life.

Priced at £2, the eco-friendly jute bag has a striking black and white design and a funky Make Scents slogan. The bag will help to raise money for a good cause – for each bag sold 25 per cent of the price will be donated to the charity Look Good... Feel Better, which offers hair and beauty advice for women undergoing cancer treatment.

Cruise for a good time at holiday open evening

DREAMING of life on the ocean wave? Find out about cruises from Dover at a special event on Monday, September 8.

Thomson is inviting people to meet the experts and take advantage of special offers at the event, being held at Dover Cruise Terminal from 6pm to 8pm.

Places are limited for the exclusive event, so contact your local office as soon as possible to get your free ticket. Call the Dover office on 01304 240182, the Ramsgate office on 01843 591279 or the Ashford office on 01233 625722.

Children's author signs books on launch day

ONE of the world's bestselling children's authors, Michelle Paver, will be signing copies of her new book, Oathbreaker, at Bluewater next month.

The author of the Chronicles of Ancient Darkness series will be appearing at Waterstone's at Bluewater on Monday, September 1, the day of the book's release. The signing session starts at 2pm.

Oathbreaker is published by Orion Children's Books and is priced at £9.99. For more information call the store on 01322 624831.

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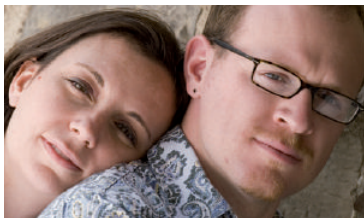
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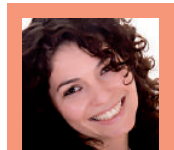
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WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

FOND OF A BLONDE?

Blonde female, 21, outgoing, medium build, loves country walks, fun nights out, playing golf etc. WLTW guy, 21-27, to share fun times with. Heathfield, Box 891100 **6**

LOOKIN' AT A GUY WHO'S EASY ON THE EYE?

25yr old female, 5ft8, medium-curved build, NS, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTW tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442544 **6**

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Lively female, 26, 5ft2, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy, for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555 **6**

SEE WHERE IT TAKES US

I'm 26, 5ft10, enjoy going out, restaurants, pubs, cinema and cosy nights in, looking for someone tall to go out with possibly leading to relationship. Box 418077 **6**

WE COULD MAKE IT HAPPEN

Relaxed redhead, 32yr old, 5ft4, enjoys theatre, meals and cosy nights in, WLTW a male, 30-42, for a happy relationship. Box 442617 **6**

THE NURSE WILL SEE YOU NOW...

Laid-back yet outgoing nurse, 33, 5ft2, faithful, happy, love swimming, the gym, seeking similar down-to-earth male, 35-50, for hopeful relationship. Box 442916 **6**

THE TRUTH ABOUT RUTH

I'm Ruth, hard-working, kind, caring woman, 32, brown hair/eyes, nice smile, looking to meet similar chap, so call me and let's see how it goes. Box 901072 **6**

SENSUAL HEALING?

I'm a social, caring and sensual woman, 33, who enjoys having fun, conversation, arts, music and eating out, seeking a like-minded, upbeat man. Box 89177 **6**

FUN-LOVING FEMALE

Attractive, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTW intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells, Box 308734 **6**

ANIMAL MAGIC!

Single, kind, caring animal lover, 34, from Kent, likes cooking, cinema, theatre, most music, seeks non-smoking male, 34-38, for LTR. Box 440782 **6**

CHAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Lovely single mum, 38, 5ft4, blonde, slim, loves socialising, good fun and chatty, WLTW male for fun, laughter, maybe LTR. Box 372888 **6**

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive female, 38, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curly, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male for friendship/more. Box 901893 **6**

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTW a professional, loving, tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **6**

DEAL OR NO DEAL (IN DEAL)

Disal lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5ft10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 403384 **6**

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Petite, sincere woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, animals, DIY, swimming, travelling, WLTW N/S man to share things with. Box 429882 **6**

MAKE ME LAUGH!

Fun extrovert person, 45, likes cinema, going out, meals, socialising, 5ft7, dark brown hair/eyes, curly, seeking nice guy to start off as friends/more. Box 442905 **6**

MOVING ON FROM FRIENDSHIP

Hi I'm 45, 5ft6, largish build, blue eyes, non-smoker/driver, devoted kid, seeking male to share life with, walks, beaches and more. Canterbury, Box 440592 **6**

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE?

Fast approaching a winter of discontent, 46, tall, bright, could you be my log fire and toasted marshmallow? Box 918163 **6**

LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

Slender female, 46, 5ft11, easygoing, happy natured, seeking LTR with a caring, committed man who enjoys cinema, eating out, reading, DVDs and more. Box 443216 **6**

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!

44yr old female, blonde hair, 5ft5, slim, easygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with! Box 436810 **6**

SANDY SEES DANNY

Slender, petite Sandy, 46, brown hair, green eyes, no love to socialise, eating out etc. GSOH, seeking trustworthy, honest man for partnership and mutual affection. Box 440100 **6**

LET'S TAKE A RIDE

Caroline, 47, friendly, honest, love motor-biking, WLTW gentleman interested in bikes, walks, holidays, the countryside, museums, castles, and perhaps love! Box 440397 **6**

ON A PLATE

Caring, honest 46yr old female, 5'2", eyes of blue, redhead, likes cinema, theatre, walking, WLTW male for fun and friendship. Box 895928 **6**

TAKE A CHANCE

Caring, loving, attractive female, 41, NS, size 12, enjoys keeping fit, most things, seeks romantic, passionate, tall, good looking male, 35-42, for LTR. Eastbourne, Box 807291 **6**

LAUGHTER - VERY IMPORTANT

Single mum with own property, 43, loves running, swimming and keeping fit, wicked SOH, seeking someone to make me laugh and spend good times with. Box 443081 **6**

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER

Bubbly, caring lady 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk and have fun, seeking a genuine guy. Box 425562 **6**

HOPE AND LOVE FOREVER

Professional female, 49, brunette, loves the outdoors, good food, good life, seeking similar as myself for loving relationship. Box 443198 **6**

ALL THAT I NEED

Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving, outgoing, NS, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out, staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50, Aylesford. Box 428833 **6**

COULD IT BE YOU?

Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800 **6**

ROMANCE IS ALIVE

Divorced, lively mum, 35, GSOH, I enjoy time with my family and friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honesty, love and romance. Box 813330 **6**

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopefully happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 **6**

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium-large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 **6**

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'5", likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 **6**

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTW genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 **6**

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 48, 5ft4, long hair, slim, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks friendly chap, 48-55, Box 417100 **6**

LOVELY LADY...

53, fit and healthy, single now for nine years and can't find the right man! If you enjoy sports and live music let's chat! Box 923309 **6**

SMART MOVE

Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeking similar person for friendship/more. Box 430854 **6**

MAKE ME LAUGH, MAKE ME YOURS

Kind-hearted 57yr old sincere lady, NS, recently separated, seeking kind, honest gent for friendship and to make me laugh. Box 440837 **6**

THREE C, THAT'S ME

Viscious, tactile, considerate widow, 58, 5ft, smoker, well travelled, no ties, loves cruising, cooking and culture, seeks genuine, interesting gentleman with similar attributes/interests. Box 442968 **6**

NEVER WELDO SO GOOD!

Attractive, classy, well-groomed 57yr old lady, white South African, blue eyes/brown hair, 5ft5. Enjoy music, pubs, country walks, romantic dinners, travel, WLTW affectionate, honest gent. Box 441854 **6**

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MAKE ME PURR

Happy-go-lucky lady with nice smile, 46, 5ft5, medium build, brown hair/eyes, enjoys dancing, walking, eating in/out, animals, seeking loving man for friendship/long term relationship. Box 443171 **6**

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME...

Widower, early 60s, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, medium build, non-smoking, loving, caring, no baggage! enjoys travelling, socialising, eating in/out, seeking similar male to enjoy life with. Box 441177 **6**

NEED A FRIEND?

Outgoing, friendly female, 69, 5ft2, likes going out, meals, dancing, bowls, socialising, cinema, concerts, seeking someone similar for friendship and companionship. Box 443092 **6**

NEED YOUR LOVE

Honest lovely lady 72, 5ft1, cuddly, own bungalow, WLTW female to go on walks, shopping, the seaside and enjoy friendship with. Box 442939 **6**

Women seeking women

CUTE SMILE

Tracey, 23, 5ft2, green eyes, slim, blonde hair, enjoys meals out, clubs and clubs, WLTW a similar female for a relationship. Box 442346 **6**

ROCKING RELATIONSHIP

Fun-loving female, 28, in the Canterbury area, short brown hair, brown eyes, looking to meet fun-loving females for potential relationship. Box 889771 **6**

CANDLELIT CUDDELES!

40-year-old gay woman, likes nice wine, candlelight, the sea, passionate people and places, muddy walks and cosy nights in, WLTW gay woman for friendship/relationship. Seaford, Box 894541 **6**



MEN'S SPOTLIGHT

FOR LOVE

Hard-working male, 29, 5ft10, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays harder! likes going/eating out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking similar happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752 **6**

HOW CAN YOU RESIST?

Down-to-earth lovable guy, 30, 5ft8, stocky, blonde hair/fine eyes, likes the finer things in life, going out, eating in, pubs, WLTW genuine girl for LTR. Box 441947 **6**

GO FOR IT

Happy-go-lucky, fun loving male 31, 6ft, slim, likes pubs, clubs, playing snooker, pool, seeks caring, honest female, 32-44, for a lasting relationship. Box 410205 **6**

YOU & ME

Genuine, laid-back male, 33, 6ft, dark brown hair/brown eyes, likes pubs, clubs, cinema, meals out, sports, seeks genuine female with similar interests. Box 131966 **6**

SECURITY & WARMTH

I'm 35, 6ft, have a beautiful 3yr old little girl, very honest, caring, looking for someone I can love and make a new life with... Box 896178 **6**

WORKING OVERTIME

Self-employed male, 37, 6ft1, short brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, enjoys the gym, pubs, clubs, restaurants, WLTW female for long term relationship. Box 443065 **6**

RED MAN

Honest, kind, caring male, 37, blond, 6ft, enjoys walks, cinema, nights in/out, family life, WLTW like-minded, genuine female. Sarah, please call again, leave contact details! Box 430440 **6**

ALL I WANT

Down-to-earth, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, easy evenings in. Box 914917 **6**

JOYFUL

Ledum creative gent, 38, 5ft8, medium build, short brown hair, like films, DVDs, cinema, pubbing, computer games, keeping fit, WLTW similar female for relationship. Box 441920 **6**

ON AN OFFER

Darren, 39, fun loving, genuine, 5ft8, medium build, average build, smoker, WLTW a female soulmate, 25-45, for a LTR, no time wasters please. Box 442438 **6**

THE SPECIAL ONE?

41yr old genuine and understanding single male, 5'7", short cropped hair, enjoys sports, life to the full, looking for lady, medium/large, for friendship, possibly more. Box 433635 **6**

BRING BACK LOVE

Hi I'm Nick, 41, 5ft11, enjoy cinema, eating out, golf, WLTW similar brown hair female for good times and lots of fun, perhaps love. Box 440769 **6**

WIN A TONY

41yo fun-loving guy, 5ft7, green eyes, slim-medium build, easy to get on with, honest and caring, seeks like-minded lady to enjoy everything and anything with. Maidstone, Box 443105 **6**

SIMON SAYS...

Caring single dad, 41, 5'10", average build, young-looking, WLTW lady for friendship evenings out, maybe more. Recently quit smoking! E Sussex. Box 963530 **6**

R U THE 1 FOR ME?

Lonely, loving male, 40, 6ft2, brown hair/eyes, medium/cuddly build, trustworthy, genuine and romantic, seeking honest, fun-loving, caring female to spend life with. Box 429941 **6**

CARING

Understanding, average-looking, stocky, 42, grey-silver hair, 5'7", slim-medium build, like the countryside, meals out, theatre, cinema, looking for an affectionate, tactile lady to share good moments. Box 417889 **6**

OPEN ARMS

Content male, 42, 5'10", nice build, single dad, own home, loves cooking, going out, sports, WLTW someone similar to me. Maidstone, Box 411411 **6**

LOVING AND KIND

Honest and caring male, 43, 5ft10, GSOH, WLTW a black female, 28-50, with a nice figure for a committed relationship. No time wasters! Box 443126 **6**

LIFETIME LOVER

Loving, honest male, 43, slim, very genuine with GSOH, likes nights in, travelling, walks, cinema, seeks black lady for company possible relationship. Box 889284 **6**

DOWN TO MARGARET!

Young-looking, slim male, 43yr old, 5ft11, blonde hair, blue eyes, GSOH, WLTW a mature lady for a committed long term relationship. Margate, Box 441706 **6**

NO TIME WASTERS!

Genuine frank, 6ft, slim brown hair, green eyes, romantic and sensitive, enjoys soul music, bowling, pubs and walks, WLTW a female, 33-40 for a LTR. Box 442674 **6**

CRAZY FOR YOU

Attractive, considerate man, 42, enjoys quiet nights in, socialising, sports, meals, the odd dance, seeks special lady to take out, a soulmate. Box 442191 **6**

SEE MY G-STRING

Young-at-heart musical male, 44, plays bass, loves punk music, poetry, nights out/in, live gigs, poetry, looking for alternative young woman 25-30 for something special. Brighton, Box 443154 **6**

NOBODY WANTS TO BE LONELY

Loving 45yr old male, loves the countryside, walks on the beach and motorbikes but not being on my own. Seeking female for a LTR. SL-Leamards-on-Sea. Box 888866 **6**

SHARE THE GOOD LIFE

Professional male, 45, own home/cars, likes cinemas, weekends away, the coast, a BBQ and good times, looking for friendship, hopefully more. Box 428202 **6**

NEW TO THE AREA

Attractive male, 47yr old, moving to the area shortly, WLTW a nice and slim lady, 30-45, any race, for friendship. East Sussex Box 443095 **6**

ALL I WANT FOR THE FAIR!

Youthful dad, 45, 5'10", brown hair, med build, divorcee, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, theatre parks, WLTW female, 36-45, slim, for possible LTR. Cranbrook Box 373529 **6**

HOP ON

Very young at heart male, 51, looking for a very genuine person to enjoy walking, cycling, rock-climbing, motorcycles, and share life and have fun with. Box 443089 **6**

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MAKE IT HAPPEN (PG)



Laurny is a young woman from a small town in Indiana who moves to Chicago with dreams of entering the Chicago School of Music and Dance. But after rejection and a series of misfortunes she finds herself working in a burlesque club. The club proves to be a place of conflict and self-discovery, helping Laurny to realise that even though plans may change, dreams never do.

THE X FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (15)



When a series of mysterious abductions take place and the questionable visions of a priest turn up inexplicable evidence it's a case right out of The X-Files. But the FBI closed down its investigations into the paranormal years ago. And the best team for the job is ex-agents Fox Mulder and Dr Dana Scully, who have no desire to revisit their dark past. Still, the truth of these horrific crimes is out there somewhere... and it will take Mulder and Scully to find it.

THE DARK NIGHT (12A)



With the help of Lieutenant Jim Gordon and District Attorney Harvey Dent, the new 'white knight', Batman has been making headway against local crime... that is until a rising criminal mastermind known simply as The Joker unleashes a fresh reign of chaos across Gotham.

Maria's in on the action

BY ELLIE GENOWER

DURING the past 10 years, Maria Bello has been known more for her serious dramatic roles in critically-acclaimed indie hits like *The History Of Violence* and *The Cooler*.

So to see her in a sword-wielding, kick-ass action role in the third *Mummy* film is something of a surprise.

But not for the 41-year-old actress herself. The US star, who takes on the role of Evelyn alongside Brendan Fraser in the film, has long dreamed of starring in an action flick.

"It was a blast," she says. "I dreamed my whole life about being Indiana Jones, even through this career of mine."

"I really wanted to be an action hero so I trained a lot in sword fighting. I had amazing trainers from China and Canada and a great stunt double. I also loved the shooting range. When Brendan had a gun I always wanted a bigger gun. It was a real dream come true for me."

Maria takes over the role of Evelyn from British actress Rachel Weisz who, as a new mum, didn't fancy the long movie shoot in China. As a result, Maria had to adopt Rachel's English accent in the film, which she didn't find easy.

"The thing is, I can do my lines from the movie but if you asked me to do an English accent right now I couldn't do it," she says.

"I have never been very good at the accent. It's funny, though, as my seven-year-old son Jackson still does it once in a while because he heard me talk like that during the movie. He'll say, 'Can I have a spot of tea please mum?'"



ACTION: Maria Bello enjoyed her combat training but admits she's no exerciser

This third instalment in The *Mummy* franchise follows explorer Rick O'Connell (Brendan) as he, his son Alex (Luke Ford), wife Evelyn, and her brother Jonathan (John Hannah) head to China where they do battle with evil *Mummy*, the Dragon Emperor (Jet Li).

Awoken from a 2,000 year curse, the Emperor and his 10,000

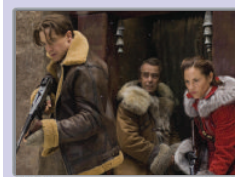
warriors threaten to plunge the world into his merciless and cruel service. Only Rick, Alex and Evelyn stand in his way.

The cast and crew found themselves on location in Beijing and Shanghai which Maria describes as an "amazing experience".

"I was there ten years ago and they were in the midst of transition," she explains, "and there was

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a very heavy feeling there. Going back recently was a whole different thing because there's such vitality and hope now.

"China has become an economic and political world power, though I've never been a fan of their politics, like I'm not a fan of George Bush's politics."

"I fell in love with the people there. They are very generous, very kind. I really fell in love with the country. I think it's a place to see right now."

With the likes of martial arts experts Jet Li and Michelle Yeoh on set, the pressure was on for Maria to shape up and fully embrace her new action persona.

However, the actress admits she wasn't quite up to scratch in that department.

"It was really fun but the truth is I'm not an exerciser," she laughs.

"I would never work out. I was eating hotdogs and drinking wine and smoking cigarettes every night. Meanwhile, Brendan Fraser, who has never been more buff in his life, would come to set every day with rice cakes and work out two hours a day. I don't know how he did it."



THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
Certificate 12A

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YOUR TV REVIEW

THE SECRET MILLIONAIRE
Channel 4, 9pm, Tuesday
HOUSE OF SADDAM
BBC Two, 9pm, Wednesday

BY TOM BETTS

DEATH, guns, chasing after villains and high-octane explosions are well and good, and we all need a little more to life than that really.

Every now and then it's nice to feel that television can explore avenues other than just straight forward entertainment which is why Channel 4's Secret Millionaire is usually such a welcome addition to the schedules.

For a show that rarely fails to be engaging, it was, admittedly, not the best of starts.

It fell to a financier James Benamor to make a difference first, but things got off to a muted beginning.

The guy with an aversion to introductions (maybe not the best of attributes for this kind of thing) ditched his Lotus and the trappings of wealth for 10 days and tootled around less than perfect Moss Side in Manchester in a clapped-out Nissan.

Posing as a volunteer youth worker while looking for people to donate sizeable chunks of his £77 million fortune to, James did his best, but episode one just didn't have the emotional resonance of past efforts in the series and never really got going.

As it's a show that lives and dies by how many tears it can wring out of an audience, and indeed its participants, so expect rainy faces before bedtime as we head into the next few episodes and the rest of the series.

While it wasn't the best of begin-



MONEYBAGS: Channel 4's Secret Millionaire shows just how innovative the channel can be

nings, the last run was among the best TV on our screens last year and won numerous awards.

It served as a sharp reminder as to why, when they really make the effort, Channel 4 is still our most innovative broadcaster.

What makes this show all the more inspiring is watching those obscenely rich people learn more about life outside their mansions and fawning social set than they ever thought they would.

House of Saddam has been a bit of a hoot these last few weeks as we have watched the Iraqi despot torture, rape and pillage his way to the top of the country's hierarchy in very graphic style.

This all has a very camp feel to it, with some very over the top acting and sets that could well have been stolen from the parking lot of the ill-fated Carry On Columbus, but has nonetheless it has been great fun watching the panto unfold.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

A BUSINESS or romantic partner could encourage you to act on a dream. It's never too late to realise your heartfelt desires. Some heavy flirting with a love interest could make life exciting again. If you're already in a relationship, you may want to step up your game.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

MAKING more time for pleasurable pursuits is a good idea. Lately, you've been snowed under with family responsibilities. Be ready to hand these duties to someone else so you can have some fun. Your boss may not have a clear idea of what you should be doing.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

BUSINESS matters demand your attention. It's possible you're not being paid enough to perform a difficult job. Be ready to ask for a raise, even if it means confronting a difficult employer. They won't part with money easily, but they'll be unable to argue with your logic.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

LEARNING about a social justice issue could give you a new lease on life. You're determined to make a positive difference. Be wary of casting judgment on a relative. Their feelings are pretty fragile right now. Think back to when you could have benefited from a compassionate attitude.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOUR detailed knowledge of a particular subject puts you in line for a promotion. Don't be shy about promoting your extensive background in this area. You're far more experienced than any of your rivals. An honest talk with a partner could reveal some troubling information.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

A SHORT trip to see family could be in the cards. Try not to bring up troubling incidents from the past. Don't contradict an expert. Although you have different ideas about how certain things should be done, they have spent a lifetime perfecting their own techniques.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

YOU'RE about to assume a much more public role. It may be up to you to deliver some difficult news. Fortunately, you're able to talk about difficult subjects in a way that is compassionate and sensitive. Resist the urge to dress down an incompetent colleague.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

YOU have a wonderful opportunity to put some old knowledge to use at work. Don't be surprised if you're asked to demonstrate a skill or technique. Your energy and enthusiasm make you a popular teacher. Your students will also be impressed by your versatility.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

ESTABLISHING a new routine should be your first order of business. Having a game plan is half the battle. You need to conserve your energy to handle the heavy workload ahead. Be realistic when it comes to an absent minded friend. If you need help, ask a neighbour or relative.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

THIS is a wonderful time to negotiate a better salary. You're overdue for a reward. A writing project could be a welcome outlet for bottled up emotions. Just because you can't express your true feelings in public doesn't mean you have to keep them entirely buried.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

A FRIEND could give you a wake-up call. It's time to change the way you think about the world. Perhaps you've been taking too pessimistic a view of life. You can create opportunities when you look at the universe as a potential packed place. You could be entrusted with secrets.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

GAINING admittance to a school, club, or professional organisation is highly favoured. You'll have to fill out some detailed paperwork. Enlist the aid of an eagle-eyed Virgo to make sure you don't skip any important points. Listen to an expert with regard to business.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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MEDIUM

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HARD

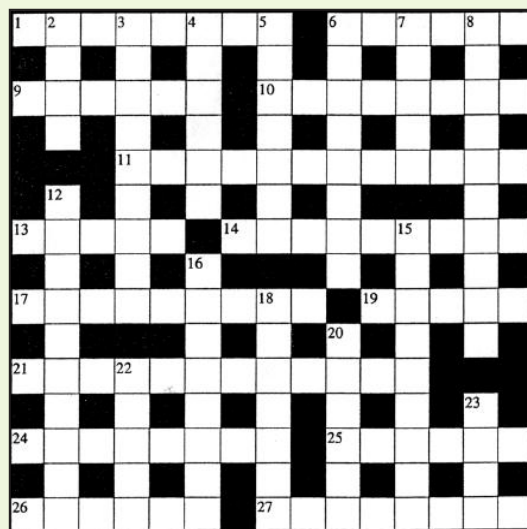
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CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Ancient writer (5-3)
 - 6 Entirely trendy drink, love (2,4)
 - 9 During waltz Anderson consumed fish (6)
 - 10 Reasonable allowance has a learner's backing (8)
 - 11 Form of late education (7,5)
 - 13 Mark upset a Fate (5)
 - 14 It is linked to offer personal protection (5-4)
 - 17 Hard mineral from sink removed first by miser (9)
 - 19 Bridge partners always jeer (5)
 - 21 Doing a cover-up job on the walls? (12)
 - 24 Gun Carol cocked gave loud ringing sound (8)
 - 25 Large number of towns, one in South Africa (6)
 - 26 Lady's short poem? (6)
 - 27 Coming from Clare, new novelist (8)
- #### DOWN
- 2 In the group a sequoia tree! (4)
 - 3 The Parisian maidens upsetting would-be seducer (6,3)
 - 4 Speak with another player mesmerised (6)
 - 5 And not said hag coming from the city (7)
 - 6 New obligation did not include old boy making engraved design (8)
 - 7 Goblin to start to go round and round (5)
 - 8 Finds extra trouble when made immobile (10)
 - 12 Card held at random by loud show-off (4-3-3)
 - 15 Middle Eastern horse on lake at zoo (9)
 - 16 Disappointment, dingy abode has vent for gas to escape (8)
 - 18 Breathtaking feature (7)
 - 20 Fungus on beer you and I lifted up (6)
 - 22 Indistinct part of old tinge (5)
 - 23 Scotsman right to include brandy (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 SKO (8)
- 6 Themes (6)
- 9 Openly done (6)
- 10 Snowstorm (8)
- 11 Best selling brand (6,6)
- 13 Follow (5)
- 14 Dishonest schemes (3-2,4)
- 17 Most sweltering (9)
- 19 Aquatic mammal (5)
- 21 Take unfair precedence (4,3,5)
- 24 Prosperous (4-2-2)
- 25 Hit high (6)
- 26 Unaccented (6)
- 27 Omnipotent (8)

DOWN

- 2 Commonsense (4)
- 3 Journalist (9)
- 4 Carriage pulled by an animal (6)
- 5 Picturesque display (7)
- 6 Rehearsal (5,3)
- 7 Open pie (5)
- 8 Tinned meat (6,4)
- 12 Deceptive (10)
- 15 Jazz dance (9)
- 16 One who stays up late (5-3)
- 18 Redwood tree (7)
- 20 Fine parchment (6)
- 22 Cable supporter (5)
- 23 Bodily extremities (4)

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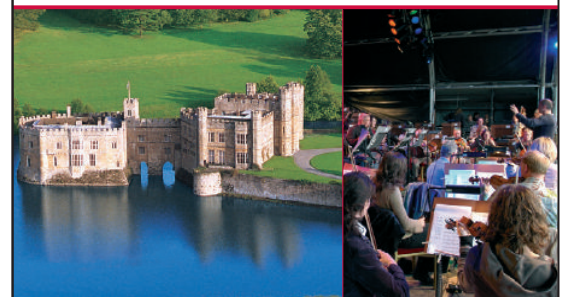


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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No48

EASY

4	3	7	8	2	1	5	9	6
6	1	8	7	9	5	2	3	4
2	5	9	6	4	3	7	8	1
5	7	6	9	3	2	1	4	8
8	9	4	1	7	6	3	5	2
3	2	1	4	5	8	6	7	9
7	8	3	2	6	4	9	1	5
1	6	5	3	8	9	4	2	7
9	4	2	5	1	7	8	6	3

MEDIUM

9	6	2	4	1	3	5	8	7
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8	3	1	5	4	2	6	7	9

HARD

6	9	2	4	3	1	7	5	8
4	7	8	9	2	5	3	6	1
1	3	5	6	8	7	9	4	2
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9	2	1	7	5	6	8	3	4
7	8	6	3	1	4	2	9	5
2	1	7	5	4	9	6	8	3
8	5	9	1	6	3	4	2	7
3	6	4	8	7	2	5	1	9

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No48

ACROSS: 1 Wexford 5 Request 9 Hair 10 Casablanca 12 Repeater 13 Rumble 14 Trade journal 17 Everybody out 21 Callow 23 Rhetoric 24 Like-minded 25 Adze 26 Undergo 27 Revenge. DOWN: 2 Elated 3 Fire-eater 4 Ricotta 6 Embargo 7 Unarm 8 Sicilian 11 Surrendered 15 Rationale 16 Aviation 18 Bowling 19 Overdue 20 Zigzag 22 Liège.

QUICK SOLUTION No49

ACROSS: 1 Knockout 6 Topics 9 Public 10 Blitzed 11 Market leader 13 Trail 14 Put-up jobs 17 Subtitled 19 Offer 21 Trail 22 the queue 24 Well-to-do 25 Lobbed 26 Columnist 27 Almightly. DOWN: 2 Nons 3 Almond 4 Oxcart 5 Tableau 6 Trail run 7 Vellum 22 Pylon 23 Feet.

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

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A short break is truly capital

■ BY GARY WRIGHT

WE all like London. Whatever we say about 'too many people', 'too much traffic', 'too much...' whatever, we all like it.

It is our nation's capital, there is a buzz about the place which gets to everyone and, if you don't have to work there, it's fun.

From my W1 hotel I'd been promised 'dramatic views across London's skyline' what I actually saw was an office block. But, if I leaned to the left, I could see the London Eye.

Now don't view this as a complaint. I was staying at the swish Cavendish Hotel, just off Piccadilly opposite Fortnum and Masons, in west London as part of an overnight short break, which included a West End show.

The truth is, I've seen London's skyline a thousand times and the giant TV and king size bed were far more interesting. However, had I been one of the trillions of Japanese tourists who had chosen the Cavendish, I might have been a little peeved at the view.

The four-star Cavendish is a great hotel, brilliantly located – especially for the West End and all the theatres and some fantastic restaurants – and you can be staying there in the lap of luxury for a couple of hundred pounds.

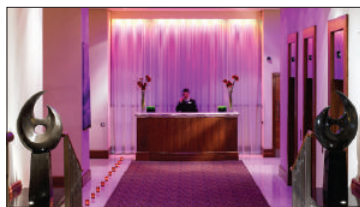
But let's take a look at the short break: Firstly, London is cheaper than you think. Forget the stories of it being the most expensive capital in the world and all the other nonsense. Remember, ordinary folk do live there and they can't afford to spend ridiculous money on living just because London attracts the odd rich tourist and City boys scoring £1 million bonuses.

And secondly – an important selling factor in 2008 – is that there's a bit of a recession going on. No sorry, I mean there's a 'credit crunch', so there's less cash about, which means there are bargains galore to be had.

I kid you not. My partner and I sat outside a French restaurant just off Covent Garden (a 10 minute stroll from the hotel) on a warm evening just two weeks ago, where I tucked into the finest onion soup I've ever tasted, then steak-frites, washed down with wine, followed



NEVER FORGET: A weekend at the Cavendish Hotel, shopping and catching a show, can be cheaper than you'd think



by coffee. I said goodbye to £35 – for both of us.

And what of the theatre? Well we chose to ignore the obvious Les Miserables, or the spectacularly well-received Billy Elliot, nor were we attracted by Mamma Mia!, we'd chosen to see Never Forget – the musical that brings Take That to the stage at The Savoy Theatre.

My partner is a fan of the boy band and I have no shame in admitting I've absorbed the songs over the years. It really was fun, beauti-

fully produced with fine special effects.

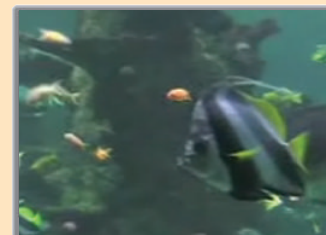
A simple story about five lads forming a tribute band and the singer Ash (Gary Barlow character) learning love means never having to... well do anything really apart from sing and fail to save your mum's pub from repossession. But it romped along and was a great evening that had us dancing in the aisles.

The Cavendish is deserving of its four-stars and breakfast delivered to your room (an extra £21) was a great start to the day. Saturday was spent shopping of course – again be prepared for bargains on everything from trainers and shirts to Fortnum and Masons' finest.

A great weekend and the easy bit for us in Kent is driving to the O2 Arena (A2 all the way) park on a Friday afternoon (£9 until Saturday midnight) and the Jubilee Line takes you to Green Park and the hotel.

Try it, it's a great way to take in a show and sample the best of London... and it doesn't cost the earth.

SHARE THE FUN



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Gary Wright was a guest of Superbreak 0871 222 3055 or www.superbreak.com, offering a variety of short breaks to London.

A package combining overnight accommodation in a double room at the four star Cavendish Hotel with full breakfast and a rear stall or upper circle ticket to see Never Forget costs from £134 per person.

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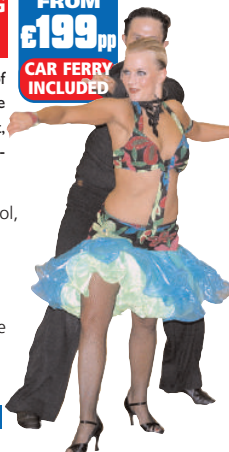
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- Leisure facilities include: Indoor pool, sauna, steam room, fitness studio and more. Note: The indoor bowls complex will be used for dancing
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July 25	Littlecote House, Berkshire	3	£269	£239pp
July 28	Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales	4	£304	£269pp
August 8	Alvaston Hall, Cheshire	3	£234	£199pp
August 11	Nidd Hall, North Yorkshire	4	£324	£279pp
August 11	Gunton Hall, Suffolk + 50p Bar on last night	4	£239	£199pp
August 18	Lakeside, Hayling Island + 50p Bar on last night	4	£219	£199pp
August 25	Gunton Hall, Suffolk + 50p Bar on last night	4	£239	£199pp
August 25	~Norton Grange, Isle of Wight + 50p Bar on last nt	4	£229	£199pp
August 25	Lakeside, Hayling Island + free lunches Tues-Thurs	4	£219	£199pp
August 25	Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales	4	£309	£289pp
August 29	~Bembridge, Isle of Wight	3	£244	£199pp

~Norton Grange & Bembridge breaks include return car ferry *Warner price taken from their 2008 brochure

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PROPERTY NEWS



On the junction of great opportunity

STYLISH one- and two-bedroom apartments in Maidstone will be launched by Ward Homes later this month.

A total of 44 homes are being offered for sale at Maidstone Junction.

Ann Moriarty, sales and marketing director for the company said: "The proximity of the train station is a huge advantage, and whether you want to shop, relax, exercise, or go clubbing – it's all nearby. We're pricing these apartments very competitively so that first-time buyers don't have to compromise with anything less than a great lifestyle in the centre of town."

Many of the apartments have a balcony or terrace and there is an elevated courtyard on the first floor, which will be landscaped to provide an outdoor space for residents.

Home ownership is still the aim of many

DESIRE to own your own home appears to be showing no sign of abating, despite the recent falls in house prices.

New research commissioned by the New Homes Marketing Board found nine out of 10 people believe buying a home is a sensible investment in the medium or long term.

This is despite surveys from the Land Registry and Rightmove showing prices are continuing to accelerate downwards.

However, the research – which was carried out by YouGov – reveals the economic climate, and not falling prices, is serving to stifle home-ownership ambitions.

About 60 per cent of respondents have put their plans to purchase property on hold, citing difficulties in either obtaining a mortgage or saving the larger deposits required.



GREEN STATEMENT: The next Sustainability Explored workshop takes place at the Pines Calyx venue (pictured) on September 10. Visit www.sustainabilityexplored.co.uk

Sustainable building can be achieved now

■ BY NICK AMES

THE organisers of a number of conferences in east Kent have called on house builders to change if they are to deliver the homes needed in a world affected by ever-higher fuel costs and global warming.

A series of workshops called Sustainability Explored, aimed at professionals in planning, housing, design and construction, has been staged to help them get to grips with the challenge of producing zero-carbon buildings and sustainable communities needed in Kent in the 21st century.

The workshops, sponsored by English Partnerships and the Carbon Free Group, are

being organised by social enterprise Real-Health Ventures, in the Pine Calyx venue in St Margaret's.

Jae Mather of the Carbon Free Group said: "Developers keep saying zero carbon homes are expensive to build, yet we can prove they are wrong and we'll be featuring a design which will cost only £1,100 a square metre, only marginally more costly than a conventional house being built today. What is more, they use proven technologies and can be built now. We'll be telling people how that can be done."

The idea for the workshops came from members of the Carbon Free Group of environmental businesses, who are working together

to apply low-carbon building techniques.

They say that to construct energy-efficient buildings, the whole industry needs to acquire new skills and understand how to use new technologies and techniques.

"There have been a lot of developments in the ways people think about building low carbon, sustainable buildings, particularly homes" says Alistair Gould of the Pines Calyx.

"Our own building is a great example, but there is a pressing need for the whole industry to really understand what is involved. These are exciting times, but also confusing with new regulations, new designs, new technologies.

"So far the mainstream industry has been very slow in changing, but the pace of change is going to accelerate in the coming years. We are giving people a chance to get up to speed."

AUCTIONEER CLIVE EMSON TAKES A TOUR OF SOME OF THE QUIRKIER PROPERTIES TO BE FOUND IN THE AREA @ propertyforkent.co.uk



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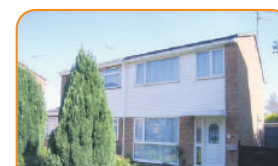


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KENNINGTON OIEO £159,995

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ORCHARD HEIGHTS OIEO £180,000

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SINGLETON OIEO £185,000

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WYE £225,000

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PARK FARM £259,950

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WILLESBOROUGH OIEO £260,000

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WILLESBOROUGH LEES £275,000

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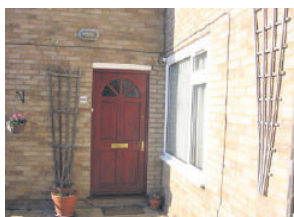
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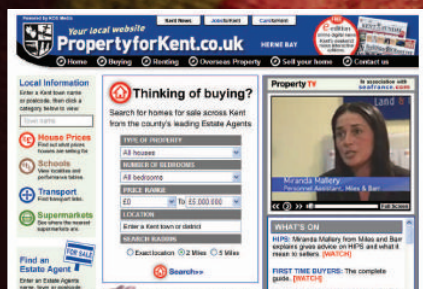
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MOTORS NEWS



'Dream launch' for new £3m KAP mega-site

KAP Motor Group enjoyed a 'dream launch' for its new £3 million Peugeot/Nissan site at Ashford Orbital Park over the weekend, according to MD Graham Furneaux.

Though coy about the number of cars sold, the figure was twice that expected and added up to a good mix of new and used cars as well as smaller models now attracting cash-strapped buyers.

"There's a lot negativity around, but if the deal is right then this proves you can do business," said Mr Furneaux.

"We many existing customers from our Folkestone site, but new faces too."



Cherokee changes tact with upmarket styling

JEEP revolutionised its UK image with the original Cherokee and aims to revitalise the model name with an all-new car this month, riding on a new suspension and steering system for better on-road manners.

Jeep says the Cherokee is moving upmarket too with a leather interior, heated front seats with memory adjustment, climate control, electric windows and cruise control all as standard.

The newcomer, priced from £24,595, has an optional 'Sky Slider' powered full-open canvas roof 2.5 times the size of a regular sunroof.



Ford boss predicts that Ka Two will be a big hit

FORD'S all-new Ford Ka will echo the look of the big-selling original when it goes on sale in November after a joint project with Fiat.

Ford of Britain boss Roelant de Waard said: "The original has been a huge hit in the UK with a sales record of more than 480,000 - 80 per cent of which have been to retail customers, and many of those first-time buyers. I'm confident the latest design will prove just as big a hit."



NEW LOOK: Like the original, the new '6' is sizeable, but now looks sleeker and feels lighter thanks to Mazda's obsession with shedding weight, helping the car grip and run true on bends

Mazda hits drivers with yet another stunning '6'

TOPPING a big hit is fraught with risk, but Mazda has taken its chance well with the latest Mazda6.

The original car saved the Japanese brand: it was spacious, stylish, good to drive and affordable, but it could be noisy.

The new car (from £15,110) is far more refined, even if the 2.0-litre diesel Sport tested here can be raucous.

Like the original, the new '6' is sizeable, but now looks sleeker and feels lighter too thanks to Mazda's new obsession with shedding weight, helping the front-driven car grip and run true on the bends.

Ride quality has also been balanced to deliver both driving enjoyment and comfort.

With a well-spaced six-speed gearbox, even the diesel feels relaxed on the motorway, despite wind noise at high speeds.

Though the '6' gave Mazda an important opening into the business sector, Kent motor group Drake & Fletcher - the donor of our test car - reports that sales to private buyers are currently 10-15 per cent up compared with the old car.

This suggests that the Mazda6 'product' and

ROAD TEST MAZDA6

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

status of the 'Zoom Zoom' brand have moved upmarket - reflected by strong second-hand values for the first generation car - and that many buyers like the idea of a greener family-size model rather than downsizing their car choice.

All engines have been carried over from the old car, but tweaked to cut CO2 emissions, fuel consumption and road tax.

The cabin is airy and well-arranged with excellent head and legroom front and back and the part leather seats of our Sport model were comfortable and supportive.

Interior materials feel more solid now, even if the 'alloy' grey plastic sometimes looks what it is rather than what it pretends to be.

The controls and dashboard are logical though, while the large saloon and hatchback boot and the estate's load space echo what went before.

Mazda's one-lever-does it all 'Karakuri' rear seat folding mechanism has also yet to be bettered - there's no messing about with seat belts and head rests to flatten the load floor.

• Email steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk



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Although we will accept entries up to 7.00pm on Sunday the 24th August, we strongly advise you to book your vehicles in as early as possible to take full advantage of our pre auction marketing and advertising. As well as cataloguing, listing, and a brief description of individual vehicles, we can now include photographs on our website.

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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

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LOOKING for a car that does it all? Start shopping for a family hatchback; it seats five, can be crammed like a small van and represents a good balance of space, flexibility and economy... providing you don't go for the 'hot hatch' version. Family hatches dominate the UK top ten – all three of our recommendations are regulars – and the end product needs to be good to compete at all against talented opposition. Market clout helps, of course, but this trio deserves to be there on merit too – check out the profiles below...

FORD FOCUS



BRITAIN'S favourite car. Or is it? Some say it's number one through Ford's formidable market share. Fair point, but the Focus is also great to drive, practical, well-made and blessed with good engines. For second-hand buyers there is a fantastic choice of power – including the rapid ST – trim levels and body styles: a smart saloon and estate plus a coupé convertible. The car's popularity and ordinary looks are a weakness though and reason enough for some buyers to look elsewhere.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL ASTRA



SUFFERS like the Focus from being a common sight, thanks to its lofty new car top-ten sales position. But nobody could accuse the Astra of being dreary looking; Renault Megane aside, it is the most sharply-styled family hatchback on sale. Vauxhall has also differentiated between the three-door model and the five-door workhorse. There is a longer wheelbase estate too. Engine options, including impressive Fiat-derived diesels, are some of the best in the business.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VW GOLF



IT costs extra to get into a Golf, signalling the power of a more premium bonnet badge. Highly-regarded diesels also keep used prices up, while the GTI hot hatch lends glamour to the whole range. Interior quality and ambience is top-notch too and the driving experience is possibly best in class. That said, the Golf suffers from fairly dull styling and some buyers might be tempted by sexier and cheaper used rivals such as the Citroën C4 and Megane.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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Based on mileage of	12,000 per year	12,000 per year
Average fuel economy (Imperial Combined) (Metric Combined)	36 mpg (7.8L/100km)	62.8 mpg (4.5L/100km)
TAX BUSTER saving	0	£1,039

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Example taken from VCA, an executive agency of the Department of Transport for a vehicle average between all vehicles (Euro III & Euro IV) in the May 2004 publication. Average fuel cost used: £6.08 per gallon diesel (£1.339 per litre diesel) and £5.45 per gallon petrol (£1.199 per litre petrol) taken from Total Garage, Old Thanet Way, Chesham, 15 July 2008.

TAX BUSTERS		PRICE	ANNUAL SAVING
2007 (57) FIESTA 1.4 STYLE CLIMATE 5 DOOR	Moondust Silver, Air Conditioning, Heated Front Screen, 1 Owner, 12,000 miles	£27,295	£472
2007 (57) FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR	Tonic Metallic, Alloy Wheels, Fuel Computer, 1 Owner, 8,500 miles	£27,995	£472
2007 (57) FIESTA 1.4TDCi ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR	Moondust Silver, Air Conditioning, Fuel Computer, 1 Owner, 12,000 miles	£28,990	£1,039
2006 (56) FIESTA 1.4TDCi ZETEC CLIMATE 3 DOOR	Panther Black, Air Conditioning, 1 Owner, 31,000 miles	£28,995	£1,039
2007 (07) FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR	Moondust Silver, Air Conditioning, Auto Lights/Wipers, Power Folding Mirrors, 1 Owner, 16,000 miles	£27,995	£472
2007 (57) FOCUS 2.0TDCi TITANIUM 5 DOOR	Ocean Blue, Air Conditioning, Auto lights/Wipers, Privacy Glass, 1 Owner, 5,000 miles	£14,995	£697
2007 (07) S-MAX 2.0TDCi TITANIUM 7 SEATER	Stardust Silver, Cruise Control, 1 Owner, 13,000 miles	£16,749	£412
2007 (57) S-MAX 2.0TDCi TITANIUM DVD NAV 7 SEATER	Stardust Silver, DVD Navigation, Convers+, 1 Owner, 12,000 miles	£17,495	£412
2007 (07) S-MAX 2.0TDCi ZETEC 7 SEATER	Ink Blue, Air Conditioning, Climate Control, 1 Owner, 14,000 miles	£14,995	£412
2007 (07) GALAXY 1.8TDCi ZETEC 7 SEATER	Tonic Metallic, Climate Control, 1 Owner, 12,000 miles	£14,990	£438

*Annual Saving is calculated against the average 2004 vehicle as per our example.

Figures are taken from official fuel consumption combined figures and current VED tables.

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2005 (05) FIESTA 1.6 GHIA 5 DOOR	Tonic, Air Conditioning, CD Player, 20,000 miles	£28,995
2007 (07) FIESTA 2.0 ST 3 DOOR Performance Blue, Technology Pack, Privacy Glass, Side Stripes, 1 Owner, 10,000 miles		£28,995
2007 (07) FIESTA 2.0 ST 3 DOOR Performance Blue, 1 Owner, 6,000 miles		£28,995
2005 (05) FOCUS 2.0 16V TITANIUM DVD NAV 5 DOOR	Sea Grey, Air Conditioning, DVD Sat Nav, 37,000 miles	£28,995
2008 (57) FOCUS 1.6 100PS ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR	Moondust Silver, Air Conditioning, 1 Owner, 12,000 Miles	£28,995
2005 (05) FOCUS GHIA 1.6 AUTOMATIC 5 DOOR	Tonic, Air Conditioning, Cruise Control, 1 Owner, 45,000 miles	£28,990
2007 (07) FOCUS 2.5 ST-3 5 DOOR	Performance Blue, Climate Control, Global Closing, Visibility Pack, Park Assist, 11,000 miles	£15,495
2007 (07) FOCUS 2.5 ST-3 3 DOOR	Panther Black, Ebony Recaro Leather Trim, ST Side Stripes, 4,500 miles	£15,395
2007 (07) FOCUS 2.5 ST-3 3 DOOR	Panther Black, Ebony Recaro Leather Trim, 1 Owner, 12,000 miles	£14,995
2005 (55) MONDEO 2.0 16V LX AUTOMATIC 5 DOOR	Honour Green Metallic, Air Conditioning, Cruise Control, 26,000 miles	£25,995
2006 (56) MONDEO 2.0 16V GHIA 5 DOOR	Panther Black, Climate Control, Cruise Control, 12,500 miles	£27,995
2007 (07) MONDEO 2.5 PETROL TURBO DVD NAV TITANIUM X 4 DOOR	Panther Black, DVD Navigation, Alcantara Leather, 1 Owner, 12,000 miles	£16,995
2007 (07) S-MAX 2.0TDCi TITANIUM 7 SEATER	Ink Blue, Panorama Roof, IVDC, Power Folding Mirrors, 11,000 miles	£17,295
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(03) Peugeot 106 Independence, Light Blue, PAS, 3 door£2899.00



(X) Vauxhall Astra LS 1.6, 16v, 5 door, a/c, PAS, e/w, e/m, c/l£2199.00



(03) Peugeot 307 2.0 HDi GLX, Metallic Green, fully loaded£4499.00

(07) Nissan Qashqai Visia 1.6 Petrol, Black, e/w, a/c, Remote c/l, Bluetooth, 10k miles, alloys, 5 Dr Ideal Family Car£11750

(02) Volvo S80 D5, Diesel Saloon car, leather£5775

(53) Ford Focus Zetec 1600cc 16v Silver 62k mls 5dr hatch£4499

(03) 307 Rapier, 1600cc 16v 3dr£4499

(51) Volvo V70 2.4 SE Estate, Met Blue, Leather trim£4399

(04) Smart Pulse Black 36k Miles£4199

(Y) VW Golf SDi, diesel, 5 dr, CD, PAS, low miles£4199

(03) Citroen Saxo VTS, Blue, fully loaded, low miles£3999

(04) Peugeot Berlingo Van HDi PAS, e/w, c/l£3699

(53) Vauxhall Combe 1.6 LPG Euro, White Gas Bi-Fuel Van, equal to 70mpg£3499

(52) Peugeot 206 1.4 LX 3 door hatch met blue 50k mls, e/w, c/l, pas£3499

(52) Vauxhall Vectra Elegance 1.8 (new shape), Red, fully loaded£3299

(53) Peugeot 206 1.1 Fever, 3dr, Silver, CD player, e/w, PAS, a/c£3299

(03) Peugeot 106 Independence, Light met Blue, PAS, 3 Door£2899

(Y) Vauxhall Corsa Expression 12 valve, red, 22k miles£2799

(X) Peugeot 206 GLX, Met dark green, CD stacker, 3dr, fully loaded, PAS, C/L, e/w, a/c£2199

(X) Vauxhall Astra LS 1.6, 16v, 5 door, a/c, PAS, e/w, e/m, c/l£2199

(W) Skoda Caddy, white, diesel, 25k miles£1999



(05) Ford Mondeo LX TDCI 2L Diesel in beautiful Met Black£5750.00



(04) Smart Pulse, Black 36,000 Miles£4199.00



VW Golf Convertible Ltd Edit, only 600 made, red 1.6, 12 mths MOT£1699.00



(51) Volvo V70 2.4 SE Estate, Met Blue, Leather trim£4699.00



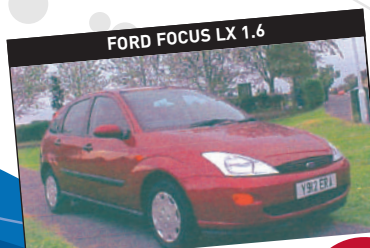
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Our training company require a highly motivated person to recruit individuals and employers onto a range of programmes on offer. You must be comfortable prospecting, making cold calls, and committed to gaining new clients and working in a team.

BASIC SKILLS TUTOR

£18,500 to £24,500 per annum

Due to expansion, Amac require qualified skills for Life tutors on a part time or sessional basis. You must be qualified at level 4 specialist (or working towards).

If you are interested please telephone 01227 831840 or email info@amacsports.co.uk for an application pack.

Closing date
22nd August 2008

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Fundraising Assistant

Salary circa £12,900+ depending on experience

The Aspinall Foundation is the charity working in conjunction with Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks to protect rare and endangered animals from extinction.

We are looking for a Fundraising Assistant to join our small fundraising team based at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park. You will be responsible for accurately processing direct debits and donations with supporting correspondence; importing and extracting data from the database for fundraising campaigns. This role will also be supporting the team in providing excellent supporter care to our donors face to face, by phone and written. As well as providing accurate financial management of donors.

The ideal candidate would have had experience of processing direct debits or other payments regularly and use a range of computer packages such as word, including mail-merge and excel. As well as a working knowledge of a database package. It would be desirable for the candidate to have experience of working in a financial environment.

We are looking for a self-motivated individual with excellent data entry and communication skills, who can work unsupervised and as part of a team.

Please send CV with covering letter explaining why you want the job and what personal skills you would bring to this role to:

Ms Helen Dallimore-Jones, The Aspinall Foundation
Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, Port Lympne, Nr Hythe
Kent, CT21 4PD. Or send via email to: personnel@howletts.net
Telephone: 01303 234 191

www.totallywild.net

Registered Charity No. 326567

Closing date: 15th August 2008.

JobsforKent.co.uk

The smart way to find a job in the County



Royal School of Military Engineering (Chatham) Divisional Managers

Salary circa £50,000 + PRP

Today whether it is areas of conflict or natural disaster the skills and professional expertise of the Royal Engineers are in great demand. Whether constructing a tented camp in Basra or rebuilding the utilities in the Balkans the Royal Engineers have demonstrated that they are a highly proficient team with a wide range of professional trade skills. Although they are soldiers first and foremost they are also highly skilled combat engineers and tradesmen.

Currently we are looking for three Divisional Managers to lead the following curriculum areas at the school:

- **Engineering Division** – Responsibility for the overall performance of the mechanical and engineering services faculties.
- **Construction Division** – Responsibility for the overall performance of the building and design faculties.
- **Professional Engineer Division** – Responsibility for the higher education courses to MSC in civil engineering and in electrical & mechanical engineering. This post carries a teaching commitment and the person appointed would need to be a chartered civil engineer.

Your role will be to work collaboratively with the military to ensure that the training provided for the soldiers is of the highest quality and meets the full requirements of the Ministry of Defence.

Ideally qualified to degree level or equivalent you will have significant management experience in training and development preferably within the fields of construction or engineering. Efficiency and organisational skills are critical as well as the ability to lead a large team of proficient instructors and trainers while building sound working relationships at all levels.

Applicants should be aware that the RSME is currently pursuing a partnering arrangement with the private sector organisation Holdfast as part of the Government Public Private Sector partner initiative. Mid-Kent College is part of the Holdfast Group and will have the responsibility for providing the training at the RSME when the contract is signed. Successful applicants will be employed by Mid-Kent College to work at the RSME.

For an application form and job description please: Visit our website www.midkent.ac.uk

Email: rsme.recruitment@midkent.ac.uk

Telephone 01634 845402 (24 hour answer machine)

Personnel Manager, Iain Johnston 01634 884601

Personnel Officer, Marie Cook 01634 884736

Informal enquires are very welcome, please telephone:

Closing date Friday 15 August. Interviews will be held on Tuesday 2 September 2008



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunity employer



The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.



Providing Care, Developing Independence

Is this the job for you?

ACH is a residential care home group for adults with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour. Based in Loughton in Essex we operate homes in East and West Sussex, Kent, Medway, Essex and Surrey. ACH has a progressive expansion plan in the South of England and our quest for the highest quality of care in the homes we provide is matched by the importance we place on our staff and care teams. Applicants are invited for the following position at our home in

GILLINGHAM

HOME MANAGER

Salary £28,040 + Bonus

You will:

- Have current knowledge of relevant legislation
- Possess a suitable qualification, preferably NVQ4
- Have extensive knowledge of Learning Disabilities
- Must have strong leadership and organisational skills, plus current experience of running a care home

For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com
Alternatively e-mail michelle.jenkins@achuk.com
or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 4466.

CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE ACROSS EAST KENT



Eastern and Coastal Kent

Better health Better care Better value

What better reasons for joining a team with ambition?

With a budget of just over £1 bn and a community of 710,000 people to serve, we aspire to deliver better health, value and care for all as this is what drives us to meet the 11 competencies world class commissioning demands.

But to do this, we need a strong, competent, world class team, which is where you come in. We're looking for people to help us realise our vision:

To help people live longer, healthier lives, to reduce health inequalities dramatically, and provide better care for all. Ultimately, we want to provide a truly personal and flexible service to our community. Only by achieving these objectives shall we become a world class commissioning organisation.

Each role will require you to stretch your understanding, and demonstrate a strong knowledge in the specific area of the business.

Overall, our journey to become a world class commissioning organisation is a great opportunity to take your career to the next level. So join the NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and be recognised as the leaders of the NHS, locally.

Lead Commissioner:

Community Equipment & Transport	Band 7 £29,091 - £38,352 pa
Programme Support Manager	Band 6 £24,103 - £32,653 pa

Provider Development:

Estates Development Manager x 2	Band 7 £29,091 - £38,352 pa
Estates Development Officer	Band 5 £20,225 - £26,123 pa
Estates Administrator x 2	Band 4 £17,316 - £20,818 pa
Provider Development Manager	Band 7 £29,091 - £38,352 pa
Provider Development Facilitator	Band 6 £24,103 - £32,653 pa
Provider Development Officer	Band 4 £17,316 - £20,818 pa
Provider Development Assistant	Band 3 £14,834 - £17,732 pa

Clinical Directorate:

Clinical Quality Manager x 2	Band 7 £29,091 - £38,352 pa
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Citizen Engagement and Communications:

"Health Matters" Group co-ordinator	Band 6 £24,103 - £32,653 pa
Equality and Diversity Officer	Band 6 £24,103 - £32,653 pa

For further information and to apply, please visit www.eastcoastkentpct.nhs.uk

Closing date for all posts: 22 August 2008.

For other job opportunities visit our website
www.eastcoastkentpct.nhs.uk

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Committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults



JUNIOR DESIGNER



Work in motorsport!

MotorSport Vision is Britain's largest owner and operator of motor racing circuits in the UK. Our portfolio includes Brands Hatch, Bedford Autodrome, Cadwell Park, Oulton Park and Snetterton. Additionally, the group incorporates the PalmerSport corporate driving event, and Formula Palmer Audi, a junior single-seater racing formula.

Our in-house creative department is expanding, and we have a vacancy for a junior designer to join our existing graphic design team within the marketing department. The successful applicant will work across a wide range of print and online projects, focused primarily on promotional material for the Group's major events. Applicants must be confident users of the Adobe Creative Suite (InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator) and should have a minimum qualification of a BTEC National Diploma in Graphic Design or equivalent.

This is a terrific opportunity to work at a fast growing business within an exciting environment. The post is based at Brands Hatch, Kent and all applications will be treated as strictly confidential.

Please apply in writing, including salary expectations and current CV to:

Katie Dickens, Group Human Resources Officer,
MotorSport Vision, Brands Hatch, Fawkham,
Longfield, Kent DA3 8NG

katie.dickens@motorsportvision.co.uk



achievement employability experience development



Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

International Manager 08/111

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,808 per annum

Head of Faculty Higher Education 08/112

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £40,821 per annum

Quality and Innovation Manager 08/113

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £36,365 per annum

Section Manager Dental, Nursing, Social Care & Counselling 06/110

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,808 per annum

Lecturer Teacher Education 08/114

7.4 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 – £25,545 pro rata per annum

Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 – £25,545 pro rata per annum

Public Services S/PS

Key Skills: Application of Number and ICT within Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care S/KS

Drama Teachers to teach on vocational

BTEC Diploma courses in Performing Arts levels 1 – 3. S/Drama

Performing Arts – to teach on vocational BTEC Diploma courses

levels 1 – 3 S/PA

Theatre Production Arts – to teach: Scenic Design, Costume Design,

Lighting Design, Stage Management, S/TP

HR Advisors 08/119

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 per annum

Pensions & Benefits Clerk 08/118

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,364 per annum

HR Administrator 08/121

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 per annum

International Administrator 08/115

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

Train to Gain Administrator 08/116

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

Project Co-ordinator – College Redevelopment 08/117

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 per annum

Supply Trainer Demonstrator with skills in one or more

Stage Craft techniques: Props, Set Construction, Stage Lighting

and Sound S/TD

Various hours available, salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Thursday 21 August 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme



Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer



Stirling Way, Ramsgate, CT12 6NB
Tele : 01843 593326

Applications are invited for the post(s) of

Instrumental Tutors (Music)

Required for September 2008, to support the Music Department in the delivery of tuition in the following areas:

- Guitar • Woodwind

Applications are welcome from graduates of music or music education, and from candidates who hold other professional qualifications in music. Successful candidates will teach individual lessons or in small groups of 2/3 pupils. Lessons are 30 minute periods and successful candidates will be expected to address the individual needs of pupils. Instructors will be expected to teach from beginner level and should develop and lead small ensembles for public performances. Instructors will be employed on a peripatetic basis, meeting demand as required.

CVs and letters of application by post to the address above

FAO: Jennifer Spooner HR Manager or via

jenniferspooner@marloweacademy.co.uk.

You should state the post you are applying for, your principal instrument and your suitability for such a post.

Appointments are subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Closing date for applications: 29th August 2008

Interviews held: beginning of September 2008



Accounting Technicians

Starting salary £20,061, with progression through contribution related pay to £22,825 per annum (pro rata for part time or term time)

Full time, part time and term time considered
Clover House, Whitstable

An exciting opportunity to be part of the Trading & Contract Management Unit within CFE Finance has arisen with a number of vacancies for Accounting Technicians.

You will have good communication, organisational and IT skills to support schools via the provision of contracted financial support packages. You will be responsible for delivering a range of monitoring and budget planning support, as well as the annual closing of accounts and the provision of generic financial advice and guidance to both Kent and Medway schools.

A knowledge of SIMS FMS6 accounting package would be beneficial.

The ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day is also required.

Ref: CFE/08/0376

Closing date: Midday, 12th September 2008.

Interview date: w/c 29th September 2008.

Functional Skills Tutors

Starting salary £20,061, with progression through contribution related pay to £22,825 per annum
East and West Kent

KEY Training Services deliver an exciting range of innovative training programmes to people aged 14-upwards and is the largest work-based training provider in Kent.

As a Functional Skills Tutor your responsibilities will include the team teaching of effective and high quality Basic, Key Skills and Job Search training, across a range of ability groups.

You will have the opportunity to design and produce relevant training materials and to plan challenging and inspirational training. KEY are forward thinking in their approach to Key Skills/Skills for Life qualifications and delivery will take place in both formal and informal learning environments to both young people and adults.

Ideally, you will need to be qualified to either Literacy or Numeracy Level 4, with a teaching qualification or teaching experience.

KEY provides excellent opportunities for professional and personal development.

You will be required to work at more than one training centre in the area in which you are based, so the ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day is essential.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau. Ref: CMY/08/0194

Closing date: Midday, 22nd August 2008.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the relevant reference number.



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Clifton Recycling is a fast-growing waste management and processing company which is seeking a
Business Development Executive
The ideal candidate must be a team player with a proven ability in sales and the ability to manage clients on an ongoing basis; be commercially astute and financially numerate. Self-motivation, hard work and a strong desire to succeed are essential. You will be provided with training and support in this respect.
The role is office based, although client visits may be necessary.
Send your CV along with a short covering letter to:
Alan Clifton-Holt,
Haguelands Farm,
Romney Marsh,
Kent TN29 0JR or by email to:
alan@aclifton.ltd.uk





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We require an enthusiastic, well presented, second Receptionist to greet visitors and take incoming calls in a professional manner.
The successful candidate will be committed to performing their role to a high standard and have a flexible approach to their work, which will include some administrative duties. Hours of work are 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday.
For an application form or to submit your CV, contact Mrs. Sue Barlow, GSE Group, Joshua House, Crowbridge Road, Ashford TN24 0GR or 01233 506337 or sue.barlow@gse-group.com.
Closing date is 29th August 2008.



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E Mail: jobs@porterscraft.co.uk Web Site: www.porterscraft.co.uk
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To meet the challenge of making our new business capacity more robust than ever before, we require you to have sharp negotiating skills, confident presenting ability together with good experience of generating income and customer accounts.
The benefits in joining us are immense: generous annual leave; flexible working hours; lots of support including an on-site nursery; final salary pension and more.
For further details, a job description and an application form, please contact the HR department on 01732 376511 or email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk
Closing date: 12noon Thursday 21 August 2008.
 **Brook Street • Tonbridge • Kent TN9 2PW** 


Connexions Services - Commissioning and Monitoring Project Co-ordinator
Starting salary £40,705, with progression through contribution related pay to £47,675 per annum
Sessions House, Maidstone
This is an exciting opportunity to co-ordinate the commissioning of Connexions Services within Kent. You will monitor the current service specification until April 2010 and plan and commission Connexions Services beyond that date in accordance with the Kent Children's Trust Commissioning Framework and EU legislation for tendering.
Working closely with the Connexions Partnership Kent and Medway, as well as 23 Local Children's Services Partnerships, schools, voluntary sector and senior officers in the Children Families & Education and Communities Directorates, you will have excellent communication skills and experience of managing contracts.
Degree qualified or equivalent, you will also possess experience in services for children and young people with substantial knowledge of data interpretation and manipulation to meet monitoring requirements.
This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.
To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote reference number CFE/o8/0354.
Closing date: Midday, 22 August 2008.

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Operating within the well established Project 15 and Westwood programmes, the Complex Needs Unit is an innovative alternative curriculum project for KS4 students with complex needs, involving an engaging and broad curriculum a new slant on curriculum delivery. The unit is based on the 'Three Men in a Boat' model which has been successfully piloted in other parts of the county.
Committed to high quality and genuinely imaginative education, the Complex Needs Units at Project 15 and Westwood are looking for teachers to join an exciting creative staff team.
Teachers (Unqualified Tutor Scale)
£14,751 - £23,331
Temporary contract for 3 years
1x - based at Westwood, Thanet CFE/o8/0361
1 x based at Project 15, Thanet CFE/o8/0362
Applicants for all posts will have to provide evidence of effective working with disengaged KS4 students and have a proven commitment to curriculum innovation.
These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.
To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the relevant reference number.
Closing date: Midday, 26 August 2008.

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These posts are offered at locations throughout Kent.
YISP Senior Project Co-ordinators Ref: CMY/o8/0185
Starting salary £26,159, with progression through contribution related pay to £29,920 per annum
Temporary Contract until March 2011
YISP Project Co-ordinators Ref: CMY/o8/0186
Starting salary £22,825, with progression through contribution related pay to £26,159 per annum
Temporary Contract until March 2011
YISP Project Worker Ref: CMY/o8/0187
Starting salary £18,288 with progression through contribution related pay to £20,061 pro rata
0.5 FTE - Temporary Contract until March 2009
There has never been a more exciting time than now to join the county in keeping young people out of the youth justice system. The Kent Youth Offending Service and partners are using a multi-agency approach to identify those young people most at risk of offending and anti-social behaviour. We're looking to recruit people to assess and intervene with the identified children and young people, aged 8-17 years, and their parents or carer, to reduce the risks of offending and anti-social behaviour.
You will need to be an excellent team player, able to work with a range of community agencies; have exceptional communication and negotiation skills; and be skilled in undertaking assessments of need. An understanding of why young people offend and what can be done to intervene is imperative. Creativity and flexibility are necessary qualities.
These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.
When applying please clearly indicate on your application form which location you would like to be considered for and if there is more than one please indicate your first preference.
To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the relevant reference number.
Closing date: Midday, 14th August 2008.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cruise along to this new travel exhibition

CRUISING is said to be the fastest growing sector in UK travel with more than 1.5 million UK residents expected to board a ship this year – more than double the number from 10 years ago.

Now there's the opportunity to discover possible benefits of this holiday option at the first ever Get Cruising Show.

It will take place in the Corn Exchange in The Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells on September 7 from 11am until 3pm. There will be 25 different cruise brands present.

With more cruises heading out of Dover next year more people are expected to choose the convenience of international travel from the South East coast.

UK tax breaks attract research businesses

BRITAIN is highly attractive for research and development activities according to a detailed study of tax costs in 35 cities in 10 countries around the world conducted by KPMG International.

Top of the table was the Netherlands, followed by Canada, with UK in third place. Brian Jackson, partner and head of tax at KPMG in Gatwick, which covers Kent, said: "It is very encouraging to see the UK ranked so much ahead of key European and global competitors."

"The R&D tax incentives available to businesses in this country are indeed very attractive."

Open your in-box to customers' messages

SMALL businesses can allow their customers to text message them thanks to a useful piece of technology.

SMS messages sent to local numbers can be converted into emails and sent directly into the in-box of the business.

Previously, inbound text messaging services were the preserve of large companies, says software developers FAB Enterprises & Innovations.

It is offering to register local numbers to allow messages to be converted. For more details visit www.fabit.com.

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Expert advice on the credit crunch. See the business channel

Unlock your potential with finance scheme

A VITAL financial resource for small firms is being overlooked, according to a recent report.

Two out of every three UK accountants say the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme is an attractive form of finance for business clients – but clients don't use it enough, according to an independent study.

In fact, the problem is not confined to just the clients says Venture Finance, which has an office in Canterbury – on a regional basis, half of accountants surveyed throughout London and the South were actually unaware of the scheme.

The scheme provides guarantees against loans of up to £250,000 for companies with minimal business assets or a lack of security, making it a vital resource for many businesses. In April the Government announced major changes to the rules.

It made the scheme open to many more businesses by increasing the turnover level up to £5.6 million, with Chancellor Alastair Darling also announcing a 60 per cent increase in scheme funding.

Despite these changes which should work to the benefit of UK businesses, it seems that there is a still a huge number unaware of it, suggesting that there is still has a lot of work to let people it's available.

Tim Bourner, business development manager of Venture Finance in Canterbury, said: "As the first independent invoice financier to be authorised as a lender of the scheme, we have witnessed first hand the positive impact this injection of funds can have on a company."

"Given the benefits it can give, and the recent improvements that have been introduced, it's disappointing that so many still don't know about it."

"Nearly a fifth of the accountants we spoke to are already recommending the scheme and it would be great to see this figure grow."

"As one of the key sources of financial advice to businesses there is a real opportunity for accountants to play an important role in providing unbiased guidance on funding options and support throughout

■ BY TONY PATEY

the scheme application process."

Venture Finance is an award-winning invoice financier, which has helped thousands of clients across the UK, from start-ups to businesses in the £200m turnover bracket.

Basically, the scheme is for small to medium-sized enterprises, which need funds but can't get a conventional loan because they don't have assets to offer as security.

The Small Firms Loan Guarantee provides lenders with a government guarantee against default in certain circumstances.

The scheme is a joint venture between the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and a number of participating lenders.



SECURITY: Loan Guarantee Scheme is another way to raise cash

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Twenty20 World Cup perfect showcase for ladies

Picture: ADY KERRY



WAY FORWARD: Edwards feels Twenty20 cricket will help the women's game grow

KENT and England captain Charlotte Edwards believes the global success of Twenty20 cricket can help increase the profile of the women's game and encourage more girls into the sport.

The 28-year-old, who has led England to back-to-back Ashes victories, will captain her side in the inaugural women's Twenty20 World Cup next summer, with the final played before the men's showcase at Lord's.

If they could reach the final it would, according to Edwards, allow the England players to showcase their skills in front of millions of fans.

She said: "It is a dream come true for us really as it is a great time to

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

showcase the women's game on a global scale. We are excited to think that maybe we could get to a semi-final and then the final and play before the men's game, it would be a great occasion for everyone.

"We have a lot to play for before then, but ultimately that is what we are all playing towards."

"Twenty20 has really caught on and it is the question I am asked most about at the moment, along with the Indian Premier League.

"Hopefully they will have a women's IPL so I won't have to worry about money for the rest of my life, but it is exciting times in cricket at the moment for men and women."

"Next year with the Twenty20 World Cup being here is brilliant and hopefully that money will come streaming in."

The England team, which also includes Kent players Lydia Greenway and Lynsey Askew, comprehensively won the first of five One-Day Internationals against South Africa at the St Lawrence Ground on Wednesday. Edwards took 2-10 to help put England 2-0 up in the series as South Africa were thrashed by 225 runs at Lord's on Friday.

England youth lose battle with weather

RAIN disrupted both England under-19 internationals against New Zealand played at the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury.

The hosts got off to a good start in the best-of-five match series, winning the first match by six wickets on Friday.

The players went off three times for rain and once for bad light, but captain Tom Westley hit an unbeaten 46 to see England home with seven balls to spare.

In the second game a day later only 44 overs were possible, with England on 231-8 when play was washed out.

James Goodman, the only Kent youngster in the 14-man squad, missed out on selection for both matches.

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England cricket captain Charlotte Edwards talks about the impact of Twenty20

ECB's sticky wicket

KENT captain Rob Key has criticised the England and Wales Cricket Board's pitch panel system after they took no action against Durham on Friday.

The rain affected County Championship match finished early on the third day, with 40 wickets falling for just 465 runs.

The ECB convened a pitch panel to inspect the wicket, but after interviewing the umpires and both captains they decided to take no action.

Key said: "I don't expect [the ECB] to change their decision."

"I expect them to hopefully learn from it, I don't think this panel is the way forward."

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



Picture: IOR KIROO

DAY OF DESTINY: Kent have not contested a Lord's final since 1998 and captain Rob Key (above) is hoping for victory in Saturday's game against rivals Essex

Key knows importance of place in Lord's final

CRICKET

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

KENT will attempt to put the disappointment of last month's Twenty20 finals defeat behind them when they contest their first Lord's final in 11 years on Saturday.

The Spitfires play Essex Eagles at the home of cricket for the 50-over Friends Provident Trophy.

It is the first time Kent have contested a Lord's final since losing to Surrey in the 1998 Benson & Hedges Cup.

It will also be the first time captain Rob Key has played in a Lord's final after 10 years at Kent and he believes the long wait heightens the importance for the county.

He said: "I think it does mean more. The first time around you don't quite know what to expect. We would rather get on with the game but you have quite a lot of build-up."

"Along with the Twenty20 finals day it's the biggest day of the year. I don't think many of our side have played in a Lord's final, it's quite a special time."

The prospect of making the final seemed dis-

tant at the beginning of the competition as Kent lost their first two matches in the group stage.

Even qualifying for the quarter-finals looked unlikely at that stage, but Key's side reeled off five successive wins to take them through to the last eight.

Confidence

The Spitfires skipper picked out Justin Kemp's 68 from 79 balls against Sussex as the turning point which began their charge to the final.

He said: "We didn't know what was going on at the start, on paper we knew we were a good side so it was a bit worrying."

"I think Justin Kemp's innings against Sussex, which got us home for our first win, was a big moment and then we went straight to the Oval and beat Surrey, that's when we started to believe how good we were."

"No matter how good the team is you do lose confidence with defeats, but Justin turned it round pretty quickly for us."

Tight bowling at the death saw Kent past Somerset at Beckenham to reach the last four.

Martin van Jaarsveld, who has been in terrific form this season, helped Kent dominate the semi-final at Durham. The South African hit 122 not out as the defending champions were comfortably beaten by 84 runs.

Saturday's game will be the sixth time Kent have met Essex this season. The Spitfires have the edge with three wins to two, but the final is predicted to be a close affair.

They last met at the Rose Bowl on Twenty20 finals day last month, with Kent winning by 14 runs.

Demand for tickets at the St Lawrence Ground was high when they went on sale last month, with the Spitfires applying for an extra allocation after selling the initial batch of 4,000.

• For all the latest from Lord's, log on to www.kentnews.co.uk on Saturday.

• Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk

Lovell faces dilemma over his starting XI

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

ASHFORD Town boss Steve Lovell has admitted he is facing a selection headache for his side's Ryman Division One South opener against Walton Casuals at The Homelands on Saturday.

Town lost 1-0 in their last pre-season friendly against Tonbridge Angels last weekend, but seven players were missing with minor injuries.

However, Lovell believes his squad will be fit and ready for the league opener.

Lovell said: "I think the squad is looking very good ahead of the season."

Challenge

"I had to rest seven players against Tonbridge on Saturday due to minor injuries as I did not want to risk them before the season kicks-off. They should all be back and my problem is going to be picking my starting line-up."

"We have a big squad and competition for places in every position."

After finishing eighth last season Lovell hopes his side will be battling among the play-off places come May, but he is not taking the challenge of last year's strugglers Walton Casuals on Saturday lightly.

He said: "It will be a good match to start with if we can win it, but there are no easy games in this league. Walton Casuals have had a



Picture: IGOR KUPRO

GREAT EXPECTATIONS: After a strong finish to last season's campaign manager Steve Lovell hopes his side can eclipse their eighth-place finish and challenge for the play-offs this time round in Ryman Division One South

good pre-season and did very well I gather against Grays Athletic.

"It is important to get off to a good start in your first three games in the season."

"We will be aiming to finish above where we finished last year and do our best to aim for the play-offs at least."

"There is a lot of expectation at the club after the way we finished last year."

Town have welcomed back defender Danny Braithwaite who has decided to rejoin the club despite agreeing terms with Harrow Borough. Goalkeeper Josh Willis has also signed a deal at The Homelands.

World title bid is going down to the last round

MOTORSPORT

TIM Reeves will head into the penultimate round of the World Sidecar championship in Croatia this weekend with just eight points separating him from the lead.

The Tenterden-born three-time world champion is facing his toughest battle for an unprecedented fourth title, with Finnish pair of Pekka Paivarinta and Timo Karttala holding the championship lead.

Reeves was caught out by torrential rain at the last round at Germany's Sachsenring, as a spin cost him the chance to reel in the Finnish duo and he had to settle for second place.

The reigning champion is hoping to regain the championship lead with a victory at Rijeka, but is hoping for a return of dry racing conditions.

Reeves said: "It is getting really tight now. I am just hoping to get a dry race because five out of the six so far have been wet and Paivarinta in those conditions is really good."

"He is an ice racing champion so he is very good at controlling the bike in difficult slippery con-



Picture: WALLY WATERS

A CLOSE CALL: Tim Reeves is hoping for dry weather in the last race of the season

ditions. I am hoping we can have dry conditions for the last two meetings."

Date clashes have forced Reeves to end his assault on the British F2 championship by racing in his final event this season last weekend.

Despite having to focus on the just the World and British F1 championship he is happy with his progress on the F2 bike.

He added: "I think I am just as fast on the F2 bike as the F1 now which bodes very well for next year's Isle of Man TTT"

Tyre choice proves costly for Camier in Scotland

MOTORCYCLING

LEON Camier returned to the British Superbike Championship with a fifth and eighth-place finish in tricky wet conditions at Knockhill last Sunday.

Camier missed out on both races in the last round at Oulton Park after a heavy accident in qualifying forced him out.

The crash did not dent his confidence however, and he was right on the pace of the leaders for the majority of race one, ending with a fifth place.

The second race was disrupted by torrential rain, which delayed the start. Once the race began only ten laps were completed before the red flag was shown due to an accident involving Tom Grant.

At the restart Camier failed to keep with the pace of the leaders Shane Byrne and Leon Haslam and was also passed by Simon Andrews and Cal Crutchlow.

Camier's team-mate Byrne crashed on lap 14 bringing out the red flag for the second time and the result was declared with the Ashford rider finishing eighth.

Camier said: "I was feeling really confident going into the second race as I knew I had the pace to



Picture: ARNANES INCAPI

ON TRACK: Camier picked up points on his return to British Superbike Championship

be fighting up the front, but we made the wrong tyre choice for the re-started race and I just didn't have enough grip."

"It's been a tough weekend. A fifth and an eighth isn't what I had hoped for, but at the end of the day we've secured some decent championship points and made up some ground on those ahead of me."

Camier is fifth in the championship and will be back in action at Cadwell Park on August 25.

LISA DOBRISKEY'S
OLYMPIC
Diary

Beijing 2008

Middle distance runner Lisa Dobriskey is competing in the Olympic 1500m later this month. Throughout the next fortnight the Ashford-born athlete will be sending exclusive regular updates from Team GB...

Friday, August 8

THINGS are starting to brighten up in every sense of the word. The weather has improved after yesterday's typhoon, I slept well last night and today is my rest day and the start of the Games.

My coach arrived here yesterday and I've spent most of the day with him. It does feel strange knowing the Olympics are almost starting and I'm not going to be there for another week.

Saturday, August 9

I HAD my final big track session this morning and I'm pleased to say it went really well. The weather has picked up now and it was 40 degrees on the track and very humid so perfect preparation for Beijing.

We watched the opening ceremony here last night and it was strange seeing everything start and still being so far away.

The hotel staff made a huge cake to share with all those left behind so we had a little party of our own. It was exciting seeing it all and knowing I'll be there soon, although it's also a bit nerve-wracking.

I've been out into the centre of Macau this afternoon to try and stay in the heat and humidity to acclimatise.

It was nice to have a look around, as although I compete and train in lots of places I rarely see anything other than the hotel and the track.

Sunday, August 10

I HAD a long run this morning which went well although I struggled with the humidity slightly and the heat was quite energy sapping. I have had physio and a massage this afternoon and the rest of the day has been spent relaxing by reading and watching the Olympics on TV.

A lot of the team leave for Beijing tomorrow morning and my roommate leaves on Tuesday, so I imagine things will start to feel a bit lonely.

I'm training twice tomorrow so have got a slightly more eventful day to look forward to.

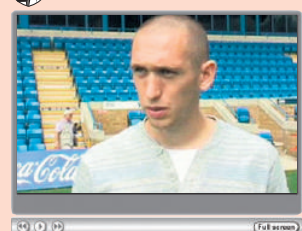
Lisa x

• If you would like to leave Lisa a good luck message during the Olympics, email sports@kosmedia.co.uk.

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Gills Andrew Crofts and John Nutter on their hopes for the new season

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"I chose to study at the University Centre Folkestone after studying away from home for a few months and missing my family. The centre allows me to learn new skills and stay close to my family.

The best thing about my programme is that it's really hands-on and the staff are really helpful. I have also enjoyed meeting new people from a variety of different cultures and backgrounds.

Thanks to UCF my confidence has grown and I am really looking forward to my second year."

Hannah Trott
Creative Industries Information Technology



"The work based project is the most valuable part of the programme for me. I'm currently employed in IT support and want to progress to higher paid project management or systems work. Including the project on my CV gives me greater credibility when applying for these jobs."

Adrian Lees
Information Technology Management for Business

"The facilities at the University Centre Folkestone are excellent. I am enjoying the programme and I am looking forward to where it will take me in the future.

The staff and tutors are very committed and hard working with the success and happiness of the students being their prime objective."

Faye Rye
Performing Arts



"I applied to the programme because it develops exactly the right skills and education that I require to get a well paid job. I didn't think I could do a university programme but it's a different sort of learning than school.

The staff and tutors are great and make the subjects really interesting. I'm amazed at what I now know and can do after just a few months here."

Clemmy Lewis
Information Technology Management for Business

